Important Notices and Disclaimers

The 2015 edition of the Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code is developed through a consensus standards development process approved by the American National Standards Institute. This process brings together volunteers representing varied viewpoints and interests to achieve consensus on swimming pool, spa, and hot tub issues. While the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) administers the process and establishes rules to promote fairness in the development of consensus, it does not independently test, evaluate, or verify the accuracy of any information or the soundness of any judgments contained in its codes and standards.

IAPMO disclaims liability for any personal injury, property, or other damages of any nature whatsoever, whether special, indirect, consequential, or compensatory, directly or indirectly resulting from the publication, use of, or reliance on this document. IAPMO also makes no guarantee or warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of any information published herein.

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Updating IAPMO Codes

Users of IAPMO codes should be aware that IAPMO codes may be corrected from time to time by Errata. IAPMO codes consist of the current edition of the document together with any Errata in effect.

In order to determine whether an IAPMO code has been corrected by Errata, please visit the IAPMO Group codes information pages on IAPMO’s website (www.iapmo.org). The codes information pages provides a list of IAPMO codes with up-to-date specific information including any Errata.

To access the code information pages for a specific code, go to http://codes.iapmo.org to select from the list of IAPMO codes. For Errata, select the archived revision information.
Origin and Development

The advantages of a statewide adopted Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code are recognized throughout the industry. Disorder in the industry because of widely divergent swimming pool, spa, and hot tub practices and the use of many different, often conflicting, swimming pool, spa, and hot tub codes by local jurisdictions influenced the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) to form a committee. This committee of code administrators, mechanical engineers, contractors and equipment suppliers, backed by the swimming pool, spa, and hot tub industry to create a basic swimming pool, spa, and hot tub document for general use. The product of this effort, the first edition of the Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code® (USPSHTC®) was adopted by IAPMO in 1967. The widespread use of this code over the past four decades by jurisdictions throughout the United States and internationally is testament to its merit.

Publishing the 2009 Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code, is a significant milestone because it is the first time in the history of the United States, a swimming pool, spa, and hot tub code was developed through a true consensus process. The 2015 edition represents the most current approaches in the swimming pool, spa, and hot tub field and is the third edition developed under the ANSI consensus process. Contributions to the content of this code consists of diverse interests as consumers, enforcing authorities, installers/maintainers, labor, manufacturers, research/standards/testing laboratories, special experts, and users.

The Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code provides consumers with safe and sanitary swimming pool, spa, and hot tub systems while, at the same time, allowing latitude for innovation and new technologies. The public at large is invited and encouraged to take part in IAPMO’s open consensus code development process. This code is updated every three years. The Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code is dedicated to all those who, in working to achieve “the ultimate swimming pool, spa and hot tub code,” have unselfishly devoted their time, effort, and personal funds to create and maintain this, the finest swimming pool, spa, and hot tub code in existence today.

The Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code updates every three years in revision cycles that takes two years to complete.

Each revision cycle advances according to a published schedule that includes final dates for all major events and contains three basic steps as follows:
1. Public and Committee Proposal Stage;
2. Comment Stage;

IAPMO develops “full consensus” codes built on a foundation of maximum participation and agreement by a broad range of interests. This philosophy has led to producing technically sound codes that promote health and safety, yet do not stifle design or development.

It is important to stress that; the process remains committed to the principles of consensus code development where consensus Technical Committees and Correlating Committees revise codes. The public and membership is offered multiple opportunities to debate, provide input and raise concerns through Amending Motions at Technical Committee meetings. Anyone may submit an appeal related to the issuance of a document through the Executive Committee.

The 2015 Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code is supported by the Mechanical Contractors Association (MCAA), the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors National Association (PHCC-NA), the United Association (UA), and the World Plumbing Council (WPC). The presence of these logos, while reflecting support, does not imply any ownership of the copyright to the USPSHTC, which is held exclusively by IAPMO. Further, the logos of these associations indicate the support of IAPMO’s open consensus process being used to develop IAPMO’s codes and standards.
The addresses of the organizations are as follows:
MCAA – 1385 Piccard Drive • Rockville, MD 20850 • (301) 869-5800
PHCC-NA – PO Box 6808 • Falls Church, VA 22046 • (800) 533-7694
UA – Three Park Place • Annapolis, MD 21401 • (410) 269-2000
WPC – World Plumbing Council Secretariat, 353 Shepperton Road • East Victoria Park 6101 •
Western Australia • +61 (439) 943-098

Adoption
The Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code is available for adoption and use by jurisdictions in the United States and Internationally. Its use within a governmental jurisdiction is accomplished through adoption by reference in accordance with applicable jurisdictional laws. At adoption, jurisdictions should insert the applicable information in bracketed words in the sample ordinance. The sample legislation for adoption of the Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code on page viii provides key components, regulations and resolutions.

Revision Markings
Solid vertical lines in the margins indicate a technical change from the requirements of the 2012 edition. An arrow (←) in the margin indicates where an entire section, paragraph, exception or table has been deleted, or an item in a list of items or a table has been deleted.

A double right angle («) in the margin indicates that the text or a table has been relocated within the code. The table found on page x points out the relocations in the 2015 edition of the Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code.
The format of the Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code (USPSHTC) arranges each chapter in accordance with a specific subject matter. However, Chapter 3 is dedicated to general requirements that are applicable to every chapter. The subject matters are divided as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTERS</th>
<th>SUBJECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Definitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Design, Materials, and Methods of Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Water Quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Heaters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Aquatic Recreational Attractions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Referenced Standards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following is a summary of the scope and intent of the provisions addressed within the chapters of the Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code:

Chapter 1 Administration.
Chapter 1 regulates the application, enforcement, and administration of subsequent requirements of the code. As well as establishing the scope of the code, this chapter is concerned with enforcing the requirements contained in the body of the code. A swimming pool, spa, and hot tub code, as with any other code, is intended to be adopted as a legally enforceable document to safeguard health, safety, property and public welfare. The code cannot be effective without satisfactory provisions for its administration and enforcement. The Authority Having Jurisdiction is to review the proposed and completed work and to decide whether a swimming pool, spa or hot tub system conforms to the code requirements. As a public servant, the Authority Having Jurisdiction enforces the code in an unbiased, proper manner. The design professional is responsible for the design of a safe swimming pool, spa, or hot tub system. The contractor is responsible for installing the system in accordance with the plans.

Chapter 2 Definitions.
To maintain consistency and encourage the use of common terminology, Chapter 2 establishes definitions to provide clarity of terms and promote the use of a common language throughout the code. Understanding definitions within the context of their application enables greater collaboration, efficiency, standardization and interpretation in applying and enforcing terms used throughout the code. Codes are technical documents, and every term can impact the meaning of the code text. Terms not defined have a normally accepted meaning.

Chapter 3 General Regulations.
Chapter 3 regulates the general regulations, not specific to other chapters, for the installation of swimming pool, spa, and hot tub systems. Many regulations are not specific swimming pool, spa, or hot tub requirements, but relate to the overall swimming pool, spa, or hot tub system. This chapter contains safety requirements for piping materials, joint and connection methods, and energy consumption requirements for a swimming pool, spa, or hot tub system. Listing or labeling method of approval, based on applicable nationally recognized standards, for the safe and proper installation of swimming pool, spa, or hot tub systems is essential to ensure protection of public health, safety, and welfare. The safety requirements provide
FORMAT OF THE UNIFORM SWIMMING POOL, SPA, AND HOT TUB CODE

protection for piping, material, and structures with provisions for installation practices, removing stress and strain of the pipe and sleeving. The building’s structural stability is protected by the regulations for cutting and notching of structural members.

Chapter 4 Design, Materials, and Methods of Construction.  
Chapter 4 regulates the requirements for the design, materials, methods of construction, facilities, and decks as they pertain to public and private swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

The minimum number of fixtures for public swimming pools, including provisions for persons with disabilities, is also regulated by this chapter. The fixtures must be properly installed to be usable by the individuals occupying public swimming pools. The quality and design of every fixture must conform to the applicable referenced standard. Compliance with this chapter will result in a public swimming pool having the acceptable fixtures for the sanitary, hygienic, cleaning, and washing needs of the occupants.

Chapter 5 Water Quality.  
Chapter 5 regulates the minimum requirements for water quality to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases and to maintain the usual clarity of the water. Some measures of maintaining water quality covered in this chapter include turnover times, filters, chemical feed equipment, gas chlorinators, and primary and secondary disinfection systems.

Chapter 6 Equipment.  
Chapter 6 regulates the minimum requirements for safe installation of equipment, pumps, diving equipment, and slides used in a swimming pool, spa, or hot tub system.

Chapter 7 Heaters.  
Chapter 7 regulates the construction, location, and installation of heaters specifically designed and listed for swimming pools, spas or hot tubs. To prevent complications the heater must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s installations instructions.

Chapter 8 Safety.  
Chapter 8 regulates safety requirements pertaining to swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs. Safety in regards to means of entry and exit, barriers, electrical safety, signage, safety covers, chemicals, water clarity, life safety and rescue equipment are regulated in this chapter.

Chapter 9 Aquatic Recreational Attractions.  
Chapter 9 regulates the requirements for aquatic recreational attractions with regards to diving facilities, slides, decks, means of access, equipment, handholds and wave pools.

Chapter 10 Referenced Standards.  
Chapter 10 provides a comprehensive list of referenced standards. Referenced standards set forth specific details of accepted practices, materials specifications, or test methods in many specialized applications. Standards provide an efficient method of conveying complex information and specifications on the performance requirements for materials, products, systems, application, and installation. The manner and purpose for a standard’s use and, in turn, code compliance, must be definitive in all references to the standard. If the standard is intended to be a requirement for judging code compliance, the code must state its intent for use. The standard should adequately address a defined need and at the same time specify the minimum performance requirements, technical characteristics and methods of testing, and required test results.

The referenced standards table is organized in a manner that makes it easy to find specific standards in alphabetical order, and by acronym of the publishing agency of the standard. The table lists the title of the standard, the edition, any addenda, and the section or sections of the code that reference the standard. Contact information for each publishing agency is provided at the end of the chapter.
The Uniform Codes are designed to be adopted by jurisdictions through an ordinance. Jurisdictions wishing to adopt the 2015 *Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code* as an enforceable regulation governing swimming pool, spa, and hot tub systems by reference should ensure the legal basis under which adoption and implementation are included in the ordinance.

The following sample ordinance is a guide for drafting an ordinance for adoption that addresses key components regulations and resolutions.

**ORDINANCE NO.**

An ordinance of the [JURISDICTION] adopting the 2015 edition of the *Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code* regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, erection, installation, alteration, repair, location, relocation, replacement, addition to, use or maintenance of swimming pool, spa, and hot tub systems in the [JURISDICTION]; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefor; repealing Ordinance No. of the [JURISDICTION] and all other ordinances and parts of the ordinances in conflict therewith.

The [GOVERNING BODY] of the [JURISDICTION] does ordain as follows:

Section 1 Codes Adopted by Reference. That certain documents, three (3) copies of which are on file in the office of the [JURISDICTION’S KEEPER OF RECORDS] and the [JURISDICTION], being marked and designated as the 2015 *Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code*, as published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, be and is hereby adopted as the Code of the [JURISDICTION], in the State of [STATE NAME] regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, erection, installation, alteration, repair, location, relocation, replacement, addition to, use or maintenance of swimming pool, spa, and hot tub systems as herein provided; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefor; and each and all of the regulations, provisions, penalties, conditions and terms of such 2015 *Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code* on file in the office of the [JURISDICTION] are hereby referred to, adopted, and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this ordinance.

Section 2 Modifications. The following sections are hereby revised:

Section 101.1. Insert: [NAME OF JURISDICTION]

Section 104.5. Insert: [APPROPRIATE FEE SCHEDULE]

Section 3 Conflicting Ordinances Repealed. That Ordinance No. of [JURISDICTION] entitled [TITLE OF THE ORDINANCE OR ORDINANCES IN EFFECT AT THE PRESENT TIME SO THAT THEY WILL BE REPEALED BY MENTION] and all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4 Severability. That if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The [GOVERNING BODY] hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases be declared unconstitutional.

Section 5 Legal Notice. That the [JURISDICTION’S KEEPER OF RECORDS] is hereby ordered and directed to cause this ordinance to be published. (An additional provision may be required to direct the number of times the ordinance is to be published and to specify that it is to be in a newspaper in general circulation. Posting may also be required.)

Section 6 Violations and Penalties. [INCORPORATE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS]

Section 7 Effective Date. That this ordinance and the rules, regulations, provisions, requirements, orders and matters established and adopted hereby shall take effect and be in full force and effect [TIME PERIOD] from and after the date of its final passage and adoption.
This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the final text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred.

IAPMO Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code Technical Committee
Arnold Rodio, Chairman
Pace Setter Plumbing [L]

Maria Bella, Professional Pool Solutions [SE]
Janina Galicinao, Disneyland Resort [U]
Franceen Gonzales, Great Wolf Resorts [SE]
Beth Hamil, DEL Industries, Inc. (DBA Del Zone) [M]
Jasen Kunz, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) [C]
Richard Martin, NSF International [R/S/T]
Larry McDaniel, Knott’s Berry Farm [I/M]
Jim Nichol, San Bernardino County Public Health [E]
Alison Osinski, Ph.D., Aquatic Consulting Services [SE]
Kevin Shear, City of Ontario [E]
John Taecker, Underwriters Laboratories [R/S/T]

Nonvoting
Enrique Gonzalez, IAPMO Staff Liaison

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION ABBREVIATIONS

These classifications apply to Technical Committee members and represent their principal interest in the activity of a committee.

M Manufacturer: A representative of a maker or marketer of a product, assembly or system, or portion thereof, that is affected by the standard.
U User: A representative of an entity that is subject to the provisions of the standard or that voluntarily uses the standard.
I/M Installer/Maintainer: A representative of an entity that is in the business of installing or maintaining a product, assembly or system affected by the standard.
L Labor: A labor representative or employee concerned with safety in the workplace.
R/S/T Research/Standards/Testing Laboratory: A representative of an independent research organization; an organization that develops codes, standards and other similar documents; or an independent testing laboratory.
E Enforcing Authority: A representative or an agency or an organization that promulgates and/or enforces standards.
C Consumer: A person who is, or represents, the ultimate purchaser of a product, system, or service affected by the standard, but who is not included in the User classification.
SE Special Expert: A person not representing any of the previous classifications, but who has special expertise in the scope of the standard or portion thereof.
### SECTION RELOCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 Location</th>
<th>2012 Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>203.0 – 206.0, 208.0, 214.0, 216.0 – 218.0, 220.0 – 223.0</td>
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<td>301.2</td>
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<td>301.4.1 – 301.4.4</td>
<td>301.2.1 – 301.2.4</td>
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<td>302.0 – 302.6</td>
<td>307.0 – 307.6</td>
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<td>302.7</td>
<td>307.8</td>
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<td>304.0 – 304.11.1</td>
<td>309.0 – 309.11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>305.0 – 305.4</td>
<td>310.0 – 310.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>306.0 – 306.1.3</td>
<td>C 1.0 – C 1.4</td>
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<td>307.0 – 307.7</td>
<td>303.0 – 303.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Table 307.1</td>
<td>Table 303.1</td>
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<td>307.11</td>
<td>508.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>304.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>308.1 – 308.2.3</td>
<td>304.3 – 304.4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>308.4 – 308.13.2</td>
<td>304.5 – 304.14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>308.14</td>
<td>303.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>308.15 – 308.15.3</td>
<td>304.15 – 304.15.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>309.0 – 309.3</td>
<td>305.0 – 305.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Table 309.1</td>
<td>Table 305.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>310.0 – 310.1.3</td>
<td>306.0 – 306.1.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>310.2 – 310.8.4</td>
<td>306.4 – 306.10.4</td>
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<td>416.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>401.2.1</td>
<td>416.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>402.5 – 402.5.2</td>
<td>403.0 – 403.1.2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>403.2.2</td>
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<td>403.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>402.9</td>
<td>403.4</td>
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<tr>
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<td>404.0 – 405.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>405.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>404.12</td>
<td>604.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>405.0, 405.1</td>
<td>406.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>405.2</td>
<td>406.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

| CHAPTER 1 ADMINISTRATION. | 107.0 Board of Appeals | 6
| 101.0 General | 107.1 General | 6
| 101.1 Title | 107.2 Limitations of Authority | 6
| 101.2 Scope | Table 104.5 Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Permit Fees | 7
| 101.3 Purpose |  |
| 101.4 Unconstitutional |  |
| 101.5 Validity |  |
| 102.0 Applicability |  |
| 102.1 Conflicts Between Codes | 201.0 General | 9
| 102.2 Existing Installations | 201.1 Applicability | 9
| 102.3 Maintenance | 202.0 Definition of Terms | 9
| 102.4 Additions, Alterations, Renovations, or Repairs | 202.1 | 9
| 102.5 Health and Safety |  |
| 102.6 Changes in Building Occupancy | 301.0 General | 19
| 102.7 Moved Structures | 301.1 Applicability | 19
| 102.8 Appendices | 301.2 Minimum Standards | 19
| 103.0 Duties and Powers of the Authority Having Jurisdiction | 301.3 Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction Equivalency | 19
| 103.1 General | 301.4 Swimming Pools in Flood Hazard Areas | 19
| 103.2 Liability | 301.5 Alternative Engineering Design | 20
| 103.3 Applications and Permits | 302.0 Workmanship and Installation Practices | 20
| 103.4 Right of Entry | 302.1 Non-Threaded Plastic Piping Practices | 20
| 104.0 Permits | 302.2 Threaded Plastic Piping | 20
| 104.1 Permits Required | 302.3 Bends in Plastic Piping | 20
| 104.2 Exempt Work | 302.4 Bends in Copper or Copper Alloy Tubing | 21
| 104.3 Application for Permit | 302.5 Protection of Circulating Piping | 21
| 104.4 Permit Issuance | 302.6 Burred Ends | 21
| 104.5 Fees | 302.7 Increasers and Reducers | 21
| 105.0 Inspections and Testing | 303.0 Prohibited Fittings and Practices | 21
| 105.1 General | 303.1 Drainage and Vent Piping | 21
| 105.2 Required Inspection | 303.2 Dissimilar Metals | 21
| 105.3 Testing of Systems | 303.3 Direction of Flow | 21
| 105.4 Connection to Service Utilities | 304.0 Protection of Piping, Materials, and Structures | 21
| 106.0 Violations and Penalties | 304.1 Installation | 21
| 106.1 General | 304.2 Building Sewer and Drainage Piping | 21
| 106.2 Notice of Correction or Violation | 304.3 Corrosion, Erosion, and Mechanical Damage | 21
| 106.3 Penalties |  |
| 106.4 Stop Orders |  |
| 106.5 Authority to Disconnect Utilities in Emergencies |  |
| 106.6 Authority to Condemn |  |

**CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS**

| 201.0 General | 9
| 201.1 Applicability | 9
| 202.0 Definition of Terms | 9
| 202.1 | 9

**CHAPTER 3 GENERAL REGULATIONS**

201.0 General | 19

101.1 Applicability | 19

101.2 Minimum Standards | 19

101.3 Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction Equivalency | 19

101.4 Swimming Pools in Flood Hazard Areas | 19

101.5 Alternative Engineering Design | 20

101.6 Workmanship and Installation Practices | 20

102.1 Non-Threaded Plastic Piping Practices | 20

102.2 Threaded Plastic Piping | 20

102.3 Bends in Plastic Piping | 20

102.4 Bends in Copper or Copper Alloy Tubing | 21

102.5 Protection of Circulating Piping | 21

102.6 Burred Ends | 21

102.7 Increasers and Reducers | 21

102.8 Prohibited Fittings and Practices | 21

103.0 Drainage and Vent Piping | 21

103.1 Dissimilar Metals | 21

103.2 Direction of Flow | 21

104.0 Protection of Piping, Materials, and Structures | 21

104.1 Installation | 21

104.2 Building Sewer and Drainage Piping | 21

104.3 Corrosion, Erosion, and Mechanical Damage | 21
304.4 Protectively Coated Pipe .............. 21  
304.5 Freezing Protection .................. 21  
304.6 Fire-Resistant Construction .......... 21  
304.7 Waterproofing of Openings .......... 21  
304.8 Steel Nail Plates .................... 21  
304.9 Sleeves ................................ 21  
304.10 Structural Members .................. 21  
304.11 Rodentproofing ...................... 21  
304.12 Exposed PVC Piping ................. 21  

305.0 Trenching, Excavation, and Backfill ...... 22  
305.1 Trenches ................................ 22  
305.2 Tunneling and Driving ................. 22  
305.3 Open Trenches ......................... 22  
305.4 Excavations ............................ 22  

306.0 Energy Consumption for Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs .... 22  
306.1 General ............................... 22  

307.0 Water Supply and Circulating System Pipe and Fitting Materials ........ 22  
307.1 Materials .............................. 22  
307.2 Copper or Copper Alloy Tube .......... 22  
307.3 Hard-Drawn Copper or Copper Alloy Tubing .......... 22  
307.4 Flexible Connectors .................... 22  
307.5 Cast-Iron Fittings ..................... 22  
307.6 Malleable Iron ......................... 22  
307.7 Previously Used Piping and Tubing .......... 22  

Table 307.1 Materials for Building Supply, Water Distribution, and Circulation System Piping and Fittings ........ 23  
307.8 Plastic Materials ...................... 23  
307.9 Lead Content .......................... 23  
307.10 Flexible PVC Hoses and Tubing .......... 24  
307.11 Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Fittings ....... 24  
308.0 Water Supply and Circulating System Pipe Joints and Connections .......... 24  
308.1 Copper or Copper Alloy Pipe, Tubing, and Joints ........ 24  
308.2 CPVC Plastic Pipe and Joints .......... 25  
308.3 CPVC/AL/CPVC Plastic Pipe and Joints .......... 25  

308.4 Ductile Iron Pipe and Joints .......... 25  
308.5 Galvanized Steel Pipe and Joints ........ 25  
308.6 PE Plastic Pipe/Tubing and Joints ........ 25  
308.7 PE-AL-PE Plastic Pipe/Tubing and Joints ........ 26  
308.8 PE-RT ................................ 26  
308.9 PEX Plastic Tubing and Joints ........ 26  
308.10 PEX-AL-PEX Plastic Tubing and Joints ........ 26  
308.11 Polypropylene (PP) Piping and Joints ........ 27  
308.12 PVC Plastic Pipe and Joints ......... 27  
308.13 Stainless Steel Pipe and Joints ...... 27  
308.14 Dielectric Unions ..................... 27  
308.15 Joints Between Various Materials ........ 27  
309.0 Drainage Pipe and Fitting Materials ........ 28  
309.1 Materials .............................. 28  
309.2 Fittings ................................ 28  
309.3 Drainage Piping ........................ 28  
309.4 Drainage Pipe Joints and Connections ........ 28  
309.5 ABS and ABS Co-Extruded Plastic Pipe and Joints ........ 28  
309.6 Cast-Iron Pipe and Joints ............. 29  
309.7 Copper or Copper Alloy Pipe (DWV) and Joints .......... 29  
309.8 Galvanized Steel Pipe and Joints ........ 30  
309.9 PVC and PVC Co-Extruded Plastic Pipe and Joining Methods ........ 30  
310.0 Stainless Steel Pipe and Joints .......... 30  
310.1 Vitrified Clay Pipe and Joints .......... 30  
310.2 Joints Between Various Materials ........ 30  
310.3 Tests and Test Gauges .................. 31  
310.4 Approval of Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Piping ........ 31  
310.5 Approval of Drainage and Vent Piping ........ 31  
310.6 Dial Gauges ............................ 31  
310.7 Pressure Tests (10 psi or less) .......... 31  
310.8 Pressure Tests (greater than 10 psi to 100 psi) ........ 31
CHAPTER 4 DESIGN, MATERIALS, AND METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION.

401.0 General. .......... 33
401.1 Applicability. .......... 33
401.2 Lightning Protection Systems. .......... 33
401.3 Lighting. .......... 33
402.0 Swimming Pools. .......... 33
402.1 Public and Private Swimming Pools. .......... 33
402.2 Construction Material. .......... 33
402.3 Structural Design. .......... 33
402.4 Testing. .......... 33
402.5 Floor Slopes. .......... 33
402.6 Wall Slopes. .......... 33
402.7 Finishes and Surfaces. .......... 34
402.8 Markings. .......... 34
402.9 Maximum Bather Capacity. .......... 34
402.10 Handholds. .......... 34
402.11 Underwater Benches or Seats. .......... 34
402.12 Underwater Ledges. .......... 34
403.0 Wading Pools. .......... 34
403.1 General. .......... 34
403.2 Gates. .......... 34
403.3 Water Depth. .......... 34
403.4 Walls. .......... 34
403.5 Markers. .......... 34
403.6 Floor Slope. .......... 34
404.0 Spas and Hot Tubs. .......... 34
404.1 Public and Private. .......... 34
404.2 Hydrostatic Relief. .......... 34
404.3 Structural Design. .......... 34
404.4 Maximum Water Temperature. .......... 34
404.5 Water Depth. .......... 35
404.6 Maximum Bather Load. .......... 35
404.7 Floor Slope. .......... 35
404.8 Depth of Seating. .......... 35
404.9 Finishes and Surfaces. .......... 35
404.10 Handholds. .......... 35
404.11 Markings. .......... 35
404.12 Wooden Hot Tubs. .......... 35
405.0 Public Aquatic Facilities. .......... 35
405.1 General. .......... 35
405.2 Accessible Facilities. .......... 35
405.3 Toilet Facilities. .......... 35
405.4 Occupant Load. .......... 35
405.5 Minimum Number of Plumbing Fixtures. .......... 35
405.6 Privacy. .......... 36
405.7 Floors. .......... 36
405.8 Hardware. .......... 36
405.9 Access to Fixtures. .......... 36
405.10 Public and Employee Use. .......... 36
405.11 Installation. .......... 36
405.12 Water Closets. .......... 36
405.13 Water Consumption. .......... 36
405.14 Water Closet Seats. .......... 36
405.15 Urinals. .......... 36
405.16 Application. .......... 36
405.17 Nonwater Urinals. .......... 36
405.18 Lavatories. .......... 36
405.19 Application. .......... 36
405.20 Maximum Flow Rate. .......... 36
405.21 Limitation of Hot Water Temperature for Public Lavatories. .......... 36
405.22 Transient Public Lavatories. .......... 36
405.23 Showers. .......... 37
405.24 Application. .......... 37
405.25 Water Consumption. .......... 37
405.26 Individual Shower and Tub-Shower Combination Control Valves. .......... 37
405.27 Shower Compartments. .......... 37
405.28 Public Shower Floors. .......... 37
405.29 Location of Valves and Heads. .......... 37
405.30 Water Supply Riser. .......... 37
405.31 Female Hygiene Products. .......... 37
405.32 General. .......... 37
405.33 Drinking Fountains. .......... 37
405.34 General. .......... 37
405.35 Location. .......... 37
405.36 Floor Drains. .......... 37
405.37 General. .......... 37
405.38 Hose Bibbs. .......... 37
405.39 General. .......... 37
405.40 Decks. .......... 37
405.41 General. .......... 37
CHAPTER 1
ADMINISTRATION

101.0 General.

101.1 Title. This document shall be known as the “Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code,” may be cited as such, and will be referred to herein as “this code.”

101.2 Scope. The provisions of this code shall apply to the erection, installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, addition to, use, and maintenance of swimming pools, spas, or hot tub systems within this jurisdiction.

101.3 Purpose. This code is an ordinance providing minimum requirements and standards for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

101.4 Unconstitutional. Where a section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this code is, for a reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code. The legislative body hereby declares that it would have passed this code, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, and phrases be declared unconstitutional.

101.5 Validity. Where a provision of this code, or the application thereof to a person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of the code, or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

102.0 Applicability.

102.1 Conflicts Between Codes. Where the requirements within the jurisdiction of this code conflict with the requirements of the plumbing or mechanical code, this code shall prevail. In instances where the code, applicable standards, or the manufacturer’s installation instructions conflict, the more stringent provisions shall prevail. Where there is a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall prevail.

102.2 Existing Installations. Swimming pools, spas, or hot tub systems lawfully in existence at the time of the adoption of this code shall be permitted to have their use, maintenance, or repair continued where the use, maintenance, or repair is in accordance with the original design and location and no hazard to life, health, or property has been created by such system.

102.3 Maintenance. Swimming pools, spas or hot tub systems of premises under the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall be maintained in a sanitary and safe operating condition. Swimming pools, spas, or hot tub systems, materials, equipment, structures, signage, safety devices, fencing, appurtenances and other associated components both existing and new, and parts thereof shall be maintained in operating condition. Devices or safeguards required by this code shall be maintained in accordance with the code edition under which it was installed.

The owner or the owner’s designated agent shall be responsible for the maintenance of swimming pools, spas, or hot tub systems. To determine compliance with this subsection, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall be permitted to cause a swimming pool, spa, or hot tub system to be reinspected.

102.4 Additions, Alterations, Renovations, or Repairs. Additions, alterations, renovations, or repairs shall conform to that required for a new system without requiring the existing swimming pool, spa, or hot tub system to comply with the requirements of this code. Additions, alterations, renovations, or repairs shall not cause an existing system to become unsafe, insanitary, or overloaded.

Additions, alterations, renovations, or repairs to existing swimming pools, spas, or hot tubs shall comply with the provisions for new construction, unless such deviations are found to be necessary and are first approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

102.5 Health and Safety. Where compliance with the provisions of this code fail to eliminate or alleviate a nuisance, or other dangerous or insanitary condition that involves health or safety hazards, the owner or the owner’s agent shall install such additional swimming pool, spa, or hot tub facilities or shall make such repairs or alterations as ordered by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

102.6 Changes in Building Occupancy. Swimming pool, spa, or hot tub systems that are a part of a building or structure undergoing a change in use or occupancy, as defined in the building code, shall be in accordance with the requirements of this code that are applicable to the new use or occupancy.

102.7 Moved Structures. Parts of the swimming pool, spa, or hot tub systems, of a building or part thereof that is moved from one foundation to another, or from one location to another, shall be in accordance with the provisions of this code for new installations and completely tested as prescribed elsewhere in this section for new work, except that walls or floors need not be removed during such test where other equivalent means of inspection acceptable to the Authority Having Jurisdiction are provided.

102.8 Appendices. The provisions in the appendices are intended to supplement the requirements of this code and shall not be considered part of this code unless formally adopted as such.

103.0 Duties and Powers of the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

103.1 General. The Authority Having Jurisdiction shall be the authority duly appointed to enforce this code. For such purposes, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have the powers of a law enforcement officer. The Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have the power to render interpretations of this code and to adopt and enforce rules and regulations sup-