

**APPENDIX G**  
**SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS**  
**International Residential Code 2006**

**AG101.1 General.** The provisions of this appendix shall control the design and construction of swimming pools, spas and hot tubs installed in or on the lot of a one-or two-family dwelling.

**SECTION AG102**  
**DEFINITIONS**

**AG102.1 General.** For the purposes of these requirements, the terms used shall be defined as follows and as set forth in Chapter 2.

**ABOVE-GROUND/ON-GROUND POOL.** See “Swimming pool.”

**BARRIER.** A fence, wall, building wall or combination thereof which completely surrounds the pool and obstructs access to the swimming pool.

**HOT TUB.** See “Swimming pool.”

**IN-GROUND POOL.** See “Swimming pool.”

**RESIDENTIAL.** That which is situated on the premises of a detached one-or two-family or a one-family townhouse not more than three stories in height.

**SPA, NONPORTABLE.** See “Swimming pool.”

**SPA, PORTABLE.** A nonpermanent structure intended for recreational bathing, in which all controls, water-heating and water-circulating equipment are an integral part of the product.

**SWIMMING POOL.** Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches (610mm) deep. This includes in-ground, above-ground and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas.

**SWIMMING POOL, INDOOR.** A swimming pool which is totally contained within a structure and surrounded on all four sides by the walls of the enclosing structure.

**SWIMMING POOL, OUTDOOR.** Any swimming pool which is not an indoor pool.

**SECTION AG103**  
**SWIMMING POOLS**

**AG103.1 In-ground pools.** In-ground pools shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-5 as listed in Section AG108.

**AG103.2 Above-ground and on ground pools.** Above-ground and on-ground pools shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ASSI/NSPI-4 as listed in Section AG108.

**SECTION AG104**  
**SPAS AND HOT TUBS**

**AG104.1 Permanently installed spas and hot tubs.** Permanently installed spas and hot tubs shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-3 as listed in Section AG108.

**AG104.2 Portable spas and hot tubs.** Portable spas and hot tubs shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-6 as listed in Section AG108.

**SECTION AG105**  
**BARRIER REQUIREMENTS**

**AG105.1 Application.** The provisions of this chapter shall control the design of barriers for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. These design controls are intended to provide protection against potential drownings and near drownings by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

**AG105.2 Outdoor swimming pool.** An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground, above-ground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa shall be surrounded by a barrier which shall comply with the following:

1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches (51mm) measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an above-ground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure, or mounted on top the pool structure. Where the barrier is mounted on the top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches (102mm).

2. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102mm) sphere.

3. Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.

4. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches (1143mm), the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1 ¾ inches (44mm) in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 ¾ inches (44mm) in width.

5. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches (1143mm) or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches (102mm). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 ¾ inches (44mm) in width.

6. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2 ¼ inch (57mm) square unless the fence has slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to not more than 1 ¾ inches (944mm).

7. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall not be more than 1 ¾ inches (44mm).

8. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Section AG105.2, Items 1 through 7, and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanisms of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism and openings shall comply with the following:

8.1. The release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches (76mm) below the top of the gate; and

8.2. The gate and barrier shall have no opening larger than ½ inch (13mm) within 18 inches (457mm) of the release mechanism.

9. Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following conditions shall be met:

9.1 The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F 1346; or

9.2 Doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm shall be listed in accordance with UL 2017. The audible alarm shall activate within 7 seconds and sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds after the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened and be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal household activities. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm system shall be equipped with a manual means, such as touch pad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch(es) shall be located at least 54 inches (1372mm) above the threshold of the door; or

9.3 Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the governing body, shall be acceptable so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by item 9.1 or 9.2 described above.

10. Where an above-ground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps:

10.1 The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access; or

10.2 The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of section AG105.2, items 1 through 9. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter (102mm) sphere.

**AG105.3 Indoor swimming pool.** Walls surrounding an indoor swimming pool shall comply with Section AG105.2, item 9.

**AG105.4 Prohibited locations.** Barriers shall be located to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb them.

**AG105.5 Barrier exceptions.** Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346, as listed in Section AG107, shall be exempt from the provisions of this appendix.

**SECTION AG106  
ENTRAPMENT PROTECTION FOR  
SWIMMING POOL AND SPA SUCTION  
OUTLETS**

**AG106.1 General.** Suction outlets shall be designed to produce circulation throughout the pool or spa. Single-outlet systems, such as automatic vacuum cleaner systems, or multiple suction outlets, whether isolated by valves or otherwise, shall be protected against user entrapment.

**AG106.2 Suction Fittings.** Pool and spa suction outlets shall have a cover that conforms to ANSI/ASME A112.19.8M, or an 18 inch x 23 inch (457mm by 584mm) drain grate or larger, or an approved channel drain system.

**Exception:** Surface skimmers

**AG106.3 Atmospheric vacuum relief system required.** Pool and spa single-or multiple-outlet circulation systems shall be equipped with atmospheric vacuum relief should grate covers located therein become missing or broken. This vacuum relief system shall include at least one approved or engineered method of the type specified herein, as follows:

1. Safety vacuum release system conforming to ASME A12.19.17; or
2. An approved gravity drainage system.

**AG106.4 Dual drain separation.** Single or multiple pump circulation systems have a minimum of two suction outlets of the approved type. A minimum horizontal or vertical distance of 3 feet (914mm) shall separate the outlets. These suction outlets shall be piped so that water is drawn through them simultaneously through a vacuum-relief protected line to the pump or pumps

**AG106.5 Pool cleaner fittings.** Where provided, vacuum or pressure cleaner fitting(s) shall be located in an accessible position(s) at least 6 inches (152mm) and not more than 12 inches (305mm) below the minimum operational water level or as an attachment to the skimmer(s).

**SECTION AG107  
ABBREVIATIONS**

**AG107.1 General**

ANSI-American National Standards Institute  
11 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10036

ASME-American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
Three Park Avenue  
New York NY 10016-5990

ASTM-ASTM International  
100 Barr Harbor Dr.  
West Conshohocken, Pa 19428

NSPI-National Spa and Pool Institute  
2111 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA 22314

UL-Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.  
333 Pfingsten Road  
Northbrook, Illinois 60062-2096

**AG108.1 General.**

**ANSI/NSPI**

ANSI/NSPI-3-99 Standard for Permanently Installed Residential Spas.....AG104.1  
ANSI/NSPI-4-99 Standard for Above-ground/on-ground Residential Swimming pools.....AG103.2  
ANSI/NSPI-5-99 Standard for Residential In-ground Swimming pools.....AG103.1  
ANSI/NSPI-6-99 Standard for Residential Portable Spas.....AG104.2  
ANSI/NSPI-5-2003 Standard for Residential In-ground Swimming Pools.....AG103.1  
ANSI/ASME A112.198M-1987 (R1996)Suction Fittings for Use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs and Whirlpool Bathing Appliances .....AG106.2

**ASTM**

ASTM F 1346-91 (2003) Performance Specification for Safety Covers and labeling Requirements for all covers for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs.....G105.2, AG105.5

**ASME**

ASME A112.19.17 Manufacturers Safety Vacuum Release Systems (SVRS) for Residential and Commercial Swimming Pool, Spas, Hot Tub and Wading Pool.....AG106.3

**UL**

UL2017-2000 Standard for General-purpose Signaling Devices and Systems-with Revisions through June 2004.....AG105.2

