2024 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code comparison to 2018 Edition			
Code Sec (new)	Description	Existing Code Language	New Code Language
202	Accessible Access (to)	Signifies access that requires the removal of an access panel or similar removable obstruction.	That which enables a device, appliance or equipment to be reached by ready access or by a means that first requires the removal or movement of a panel or similar obstruction [see "Ready access (to)"].
202	Aquatic Venue	(new)	A constructed structure or modified natural structure containing water and intended for recreational or therapeutic use. Exposure to water in these structures may occur by contact, ingestion or aerosolization. Examples include swimming pools, wave pools, lazy rivers, surf pools, spas, hot tubs, therapy pools, spray pads, waterpark pools and other interactive water venues.
202	Chemical Storage Space	(new)	A space in an aquatic facility used for the storage of pool or spa chemicals such as acids, salt, or corrosive or oxidizing chemicals.
202	Copper Alloy	(new)	A homogeneous mixture of two or more metals in which copper is the primary component, such as brass and bronze.
202	Elevated Swimming Pool	(new)	Any permanently installed pool, spa, cold plunge, catch basin, overflow trough, including any connected water feature, or body of water water feature, that is over a habitable, occupiable or unoccupied space that is (1) inside a thermal envelope, (2) outside a thermal envelope, or (3) a combination of inside and outside the thermal envelope.
202	Equipment room	(new)	A space intended for the operation of pool pumps, filters, heaters, and controllers. This space is not intended for the storage of hazardous pool or spa chemicals.
202	Increased risk aquatic venue	(new)	An aquatic venue that has an increased risk of microbial contamination due to its primary users being children under the age of 5 or people more susceptible to infection, such as therapy patients with open wounds. Examples of increased risk aquatic venues include spray pads, wading pools, therapy pools, and other aquatic venues designed primarily for children under the age of 5.
202	Indoor aquatic facility	(new)	A physical place that contains one or more pools or spas and the surrounding bather and spectator/stadium seating areas within a structure that meets the definition of “Building” in the International Building Code. It does not include equipment, chemical storage, or bather hygiene rooms or any other rooms with a direct opening to the aquatic facility. Also known as a natatorium.
202	Interactive water play features	(new)	Any indoor or outdoor structure designed to allow for public recreational activities with recirculated, filtered, and treated water that includes sprayed, jetted or other water sources contacting bathers and not incorporating standing or captured water as part of the bather activity area. These installations are also known as splash pads, spray pads, and wet decks.
202	Peer review	(new)	An independent and objective technical review conducted by an approved third party
202	Perimeter flow pool	(new)	A pool where the water surface is lifted and flows over the perimeter of the pool into a surrounding gutter that delivers water to the circulation pump.

202	Underwater bench Underwater seat	An underwater ledge that is placed completely inside the perimeter shape of the pool, generally located in the shallow end of the pool.	An underwater seat that can be recessed into the pool wall or placed completely inside the perimeter shape of the pool.
202	Ready access (to)	(new)	That which enables a device, appliance or equipment to be directly reached, without requiring the removal or movement of any panel or similar obstruction [see "Access (to)"].
202	Secondary disinfection system	(new)	Disinfection processes or systems installed in increased-risk aquatic venues in addition to the required primary disinfection system.
202	Shotcrete	(new)	Concrete, wet or dry, placed by a high-velocity pneumatic projection from a nozzle.
202	Suction outlet	A submerged fitting, fitting assembly, cover/grate and related components that provide a localized low-pressure area for the transfer of water from a swimming pool, spa or hot tub. Submerged suction outlets have been referred to as main drains.	Any appurtenance that provides a localized low-pressure area for the transfer of water from a pool to an individual suction system including but not limited to a suction outlet fitting assembly, skimmer or vacuum port fitting.
202	Suction outlet fintting assembly (SOFA)	(new)	A fully submerged suction outlet composed of all components, including the cover and/or grate, adapters, supports, riser rings, a field-built sump or manufactured sump, and fasteners.
202	Sun shelf	(new)	An area of a pool that adjoins the pool wall with a water depth less than 12 inches (305 mm) and is used for seating and play.
302.3.1	Suction outlet fitting assembly sumps	(new)	Sumps shall be inspected for dimensional conformance to APSP 16 as specified by the suction outlet fitting assembly installation instructions.
303.1.3	Covers	Outdoor heated pools and outdoor permanent spas shall be provided with a vapor-retardant cover or other approved vapor-retardant means in accordance with Section 104.11. Exception: Where more than 70 percent of the energy for heating, computed over an operating season, is from a heat pump or solar energy source, covers or other vapor-retardant means shall not be required.	Outdoor heated pools and outdoor permanent spas shall be provided with a vapor-retardant cover or other approved vapor-retardant means in accordance with Section 104.9.1. Exception:Where more than 75 percent of the energy for heating, computed over an operating season of not fewer than 3 calendar months, is from a heat pump or an on-site renewable energy system, covers or other vapor-retardant means shall not be required.
304.4	Protection of Equipment	Equipment shall be elevated to or above the design flood elevation or be anchored to prevent flotation and protected to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.	Equipment shall be elevated to or above the design flood elevation. Exception:Equipment for pools, spas and water features shall be permitted below the required elevation provided that the equipment is elevated to the highest extent practical, is anchored to prevent flotation and resist flood forces, and is protected to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.
305.1.1	Construction fencing required	(new)	The construction sites for in-ground swimming pools and spas shall be provided with construction fencing to surround the site from the time that any excavation occurs up to the time that the permanent barrier is completed. The fencing shall be not less than 4 feet (1219 mm) in height.

305.2.4	Screen enclosure as a barrier	(new)	A swimming pool screen enclosure shall be permitted to be utilized as part, or all, of a required barrier provided that the enclosure complies with the requirements of Section 305.2. Such screen enclosures shall be designed by a registered design professional. Walls of such screen enclosures shall not be considered to be dwelling walls.
305.2.4.1	Mesh for screen enclosures	(new)	The mesh utilized in the barrier portion of the screen enclosure shall have a tensile strength of not less than 100 pounds per square foot (20.5 kg/m2) when tested in accordance with ASTM D5034 and a ball burst strength of not less than 150 pounds per square foot (30.7 kg/m2) when tested in accordance with ASTM D3787.
305.2.5.1	Setback for mesh fences	(new)	The inside of a mesh fence shall be not closer than 20 inches (508 mm) to the nearest edge of the water of a pool or spa.
305.2.10	Clear zone	There shall be a clear zone of not less than 36 inches (914 mm) between the exterior of the barrier and any permanent structures or equipment such as pumps, filters and heaters that can be used to climb the barrier.	Where equipment, including pool equipment such as pumps, filters and heaters, is on the same lot as a pool or spa and such equipment is located outside of the barrier protecting the pool or spa, such equipment shall be located not less than 36 inches (914 mm) from the outside of the barrier.
305.3	Doors and gates	Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Sections 305.3.1 through 305.3.3 and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool or spa, shall be self-closing and shall have a self-latching device.	Doors and gates in barriers shall comply with the requirements of Sections 305.3.1 through 305.3.3 and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access doors and gates shall open outward away from the pool or spa, shall be self-closing and shall have a self-latching device. Doors and gates shall not swing over stairs.
305.3.2	Double or multiple goors and gates	Double gates or multiple gates shall have not fewer than one leaf secured in place and the adjacent leaf shall be secured with a selflatching device. The gate and barrier shall not have openings larger than 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the latch release mechanism. The self-latching device shall comply with the requirements of Section 305.3.3.	Double doors and gates or multiple doors and gates shall have not fewer than one leaf secured in place and the adjacent leaf shall be secured with a self-latching device.

305.3.3	Latch release	Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from grade, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool or spa side of the gate not less than 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate, and the gate and barrier shall not have openings greater than 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism.	For doors and gates in barriers, the door and gate latch release mechanisms shall be in accordance with the following: 1.Where door and gate latch release mechanisms are accessed from the outside of the barrier and are not of the self-locking type, such mechanism shall be located above the finished floor or ground surface in accordance with the following: 1.1.At public pools and spas, not less than 52 inches (1219 mm) and not greater than 54 inches (1372 mm). 1.2.At residential pools and spas, not less than 54 inches (1372 mm). 2.Where door and gate latch release mechanisms are of the self-locking type such as where the lock is operated by means of a key, an electronic opener or the entry of a combination into an integral combination lock, the lock operation control and the latch release mechanism shall be located above the finished floor or ground surface in accordance with the following: 2.1.At public pools and spas, not less than 34 inches and not greater than 48 inches (1219 mm). 2.2.At residential pools and spas, at not greater than 54 inches (1372 mm). 3.At private pools, where the only latch release mechanism of a self-latching device for a gate is located on the pool and spa side of the barrier, the release mechanism shall be located at a point that is at least 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate.
305.3.4	Barriers adjacent to latch release mechanisms	(new)	Where a latch release mechanism is located on the inside of a barrier, openings in the door, gate and barrier within 18 inches (457 mm) of the latch shall not be greater than 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) in any dimension.

305.4	Structure wall as a barrier	Where a wall of a dwelling or structure serves as part of the barrier and where doors or windows provide direct access to the pool or spa through that wall, one of the following shall be required: 1.Operable windows having a sill height of less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above the indoor finished floor and doors shall have an alarm that produces an audible warning when the window, door or their screens are opened. The alarm shall be listed and labeled as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017. In dwellings or structures not required to be Accessible units, Type A units or Type B units, the operable parts of the alarm deactivation switches shall be located 54 inches (1372 mm) or more above the finished floor. In dwellings or structures required to be Accessible units, Type A units or Type B units, the operable parts of the alarm deactivation switches shall be located not greater than 54 inches (1372 mm) and not less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above the finished floor. 2.A safety cover that is listed and labeled in accordance with ASTM F1346 is installed for the pools and spas. 3.An approved means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, is provided. Such means of protection shall provide a degree of protection that is not less than the protection afforded by Item 1 or 2.	Where a wall of a dwelling or structure serves as part of the barrier and where doors, gates or windows provide direct access to the pool or spa through that wall, one of the following shall be required: 1.Operable windows having a sill height of less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above the indoor finished floor, doors and gates shall have an alarm that produces an audible warning when the window, door or their screens are opened. The alarm shall be listed and labeled as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017. 2.In dwellings not required to be Accessible units, Type A units or Type B units, the operable parts of the alarm deactivation switches shall be located at not less than 54 inches (1372 mm) above the finished floor. 3.In dwellings that are required to be Accessible units, Type A units or Type B units, the operable parts of the alarm deactivation switches shall be located not greater than 54 inches (1372 mm) and not less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above the finished floor. 4.In structures other than dwellings, the operable parts of the alarm deactivation switches shall be located not greater than 54 inches (1372 mm) and not less than 48 inches (1220 mm) above the finished floor. 5.A safety cover that is listed and labeled in accordance with ASTM F1346 is installed for the pools and spas. 6.An approved means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, is provided. Such means of protection shall provide a degree of protection that is not less than the protection afforded by Item 1 or 2.
305.8	Means of egress	(new)	Outdoor public pools provided with barriers shall have means of egress as required by Chapter 10 of the International Building Code.
306.2	Slip resistant	Decks, ramps, coping, and similar step surfaces shall be slip resistant and cleanable. Special features in or on decks such as markers, brand insignias, and similar materials shall be slip resistant.	Decks, ramps, coping, and similar step surfaces shall be slip resistant and cleanable. Where surfaces are evaluated for slip resistance, such surfaces shall have, when tested wet, a minimum pendulum slip rating classification of P4 if tested in accordance with SA AS4586 or a minimum Dynamic Coefficient of Friction (DCOF) of 0.42 if tested in accordance with ANSI A326. The design professional shall determine the appropriate classification and level of slip resistance necessary based on surface type, placement environment, and pedestrian traffic. Special features in or on decks such as markers, brand insignias, and similar materials shall be slip resistant.

306.5	Slope	The minimum slope of decks shall be in accordance with Table 306.5 except where an alternative drainage method is provided that prevents the accumulation or pooling of water. The slope for decks, other than wood decks, shall be not greater than 1/2 inch per foot (1 mm per 24 mm) except for ramps. The slope for wood and wood/plastic composite decks shall be not greater than 1/4 inch per 1 foot (1 mm per 48 mm). Decks shall be sloped so that standing water will not be deeper than 1/8 inch (3.2 mm), 20 minutes after the cessation of the addition of water to the deck.	The minimum slope of decks shall be in accordance with Table 306.5. The maximum slope of decks shall be not greater than 1/2 inch per foot (1 mm per 24 mm). Exceptions: 1.The minimum slope of decks in Table 306.5 shall not be required where an alternative drainage method is provided that prevents the accumulation or pooling of water deeper than 1/8 inch (3.2 mm), 20 minutes after the cessation of the addition of water to the deck. 2.The minimum slope of decks in Table 306.5 shall not be required where the decking is gapped in accordance with Section 306.6.
306.5.1	Deck drainage	(new)	Decks shall be sloped to drain away from the pool or toward the deck drains. Where site conditions require, deck drains shall be permitted to be placed at the back side of the pool structure or coping.
306.5.2	Site drainage	(new)	Site drainage shall direct all perimeter deck drainage, general site, and roof drainage away from the pool area. Exception:First 3 feet (914 mm) of decking immediately surrounding perimeter flow pools
306.6	Gaps	Gaps shall be provided between deck boards in wood and wood/plastic composite decks. Gaps shall be consistent with approved engineering methods with respect to the type of wood used and shall not cause a tripping hazard.	Gaps not less than 1/8 inch and not greater than 1/2 inch shall be provided between wood deck boards for drainage. Gaps between manufactured deck boards shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. Exception:Gaps are not required between wood deck boards installed on decks sloped in accordance with Section R306.5
307.1.2.1	Munsell gray scale	(new)	Finishes shall be not less than 8.0 on the Munsell gray scale. Exceptions: The following shall not be required to comply with this section: 1.Competitive lane markings. 2.Floors of dedicated competitive diving wells. 3.Step or bench edge markings. 4.Pools shallower than 24 inches (609.6 mm). 5.Water line tiles. 6.Wave and surf pool depth change indicator tiles. 7.Depth change indicator tiles where a rope and float line is provided. 8.Features such as rock formations, as approved.
307.1.3	Deisgns or logos	For other than residential pools and residential spas, the colors, patterns, or finishes of the pool and spa interiors shall not obscure objects or surfaces within the pool or spa.	Any design or logo on the pool floor or walls shall be such that it will not hinder the detection of a human in distress, algae, sediment, or other objects in the pool.

307.1.5	Accessibility	An accessible route to public pools and spas shall be provided in accordance with the International Building Code. Accessibility within public pools and spas shall be provided as required by the accessible recreational facilities provisions of the International Building Code.	An accessible route to public pools and spas shall be provided in accordance with the International Building Code. Accessibility within public pools and spas shall be provided as required by the accessible recreational facilities provisions of the International Building Code. Pool and spa lifts providing an accessible means of entry into the water shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 60335-2-1000 and be installed in accordance with ICC A117.1 and NFPA 70.
307.2.2	Materials and structural design	(new exception)	Exception:Pools and spas constructed with reinforced concrete or reinforced shotcrete with a minimum compressive strength of 2,500 pounds per square inch (175.8 kg/cm2) as designed by a design professional and approved shall be permitted.
308.1	Design of elevated pools	(new)	Elevated pools shall be designed and constructed in accordance with PHTA 10.
312.3	Water velocity	The water velocity in return lines shall not exceed 8 feet (2.4 m) per second. The water velocity in suction piping shall be as required by Section 310.	The water velocity in suction and return piping shall comply with either Section 312.3.1 or 312.3.2. The water velocity in copper and copper alloy piping shall not exceed 8 fps (2.4 mps). All water velocity calculations shall be based on the design flow rate specified for each recirculation system.
312.4.4	Suction outlet fitting assemblies	Suction outlet fitting assemblies shall be listed and labeled in compliance with APSP 16.	Suction outlet fitting assemblies shall conform to APSP 16. Manufactured suction outlet fitting assemblies shall be listed and labeled. Suction outlet fitting assemblies other than the manufactured type shall be certified as conforming by a design professional.
317.6.3	Marking of collectors and modules	(new)	Solar thermal collectors and photovoltaic modules shall be permanently marked with the manufacturer's name, model number, and serial number. Such markings shall be located on each collector in a position that is readily viewable after installation.
320.3	Secondary disinfection systems	(new)	Secondary disinfection systems shall be installed for the following increased-risk aquatic venues in addition to the required primary disinfection system: 1.Wading pools. 2.Interactive water play features. 3.Therapy pools. 4.Other aquatic venues designed primarily for children under the age of 5. The secondary disinfection system shall be listed and labeled to NSF 50 and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Where electrically powered, such equipment shall additionally be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 1081 or UL 1563 .
320.4	Supplemental treatment systems	(new)	Supplemental treatment systems in public pools and spas shall be certified to NSF 50 and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Where electrically powered, such equipment shall additionally be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 1081 or UL 1563.
322.2.3	Underwater lighting	Underwater lighting shall provide not less than 8 horizontal foot-candles (8 lumens per square foot) [86 lux] at the pool water surface area, or not less than a total wattage of 1/2 watt/ft2(5.4 watts/m2) of pool water surface for incandescent underwater lighting where the fixtures and lamps are rated in watts.	Underwater lighting shall provide not less than 8 lamp lumens per square foot of pool water surface area.

322.3.1	Wall clearance	There shall be a clearance of not less than 3 inches (76 mm) and not greater than 6 inches (152 mm) between the pool wall and the ladder.	There shall be a clearance of not less than 3 inches (76 mm) and not greater than 4 inches (101.6 mm) between the pool wall and the ladder.
323.4	Recessed treads	Recessed treads shall have a minimum depth of not less than 5 inches (127 mm) and a width of not less than 12 inches (305 mm). The vertical distance between the pool coping edge, deck, or step surface and the uppermost recessed tread shall be not greater than 12 inches (305 mm). Recessed treads shall have slip-resistant surfaces.	Recessed treads shall have a depth of not less than 4.5 inches (114 mm) and a width of not less than 12 inches (305 mm). The vertical distance between the pool coping edge, deck, or step surface and the uppermost recessed tread shall be not greater than 12 inches (305 mm) measured at the wall. The tread shall not protrude more than 2.5 inches (64 mm) from the wall. Recessed treads shall have slip-resistant surfaces.
324.1	Handholds required	Where the depth below the design waterline of a pool or spa exceeds 42 inches (1067 mm), handholds along the perimeter shall be provided. Handholds shall be located at the top of deck or coping.	Where the depth below the design waterline of a residential swimming pool or spa exceeds 42 inches (1067 mm) or where the depth below the design waterline of a public swimming pool exceeds 24 inches (610 mm), handholds along the perimeter shall be provided. Handholds shall be located at the top of deck or coping.
Section 325	Equipment Rooms	(new)	(see section)
Chapter 4	Public Swimming Pools	(not included in adoption)	
504.2	Timer	(new)	The operation of the hydrotherapy jets shall be limited by a cycle timer having a maximum setting of 10 minutes. The cycle timer shall be located not less than 5 feet (1524 mm) away, adjacent to, and within sight of the spa.
505.2.1	Testing and certification Required Conformance	Suction fittings shall be listed and labeled in accordance with APSP 16.	Suction outlet fittings shall be in accordance with Section 312.4.4.
Chapter 6	Aquatic Recreation Facilities	(not included in adoption)	
803.1	Construction tolerances	The construction tolerance for dimensions for the overall length, width and depth of the pool shall be ± 3 inches (76 mm). The construction tolerance for all other dimensions shall be ± 2 inches (51 mm), unless otherwise specified by the design engineer.	The construction tolerance for dimensions for the overall length, width and depth of the pool shall be ± 3 inches (76 mm). The construction tolerance for all other dimensions, except the location of the design waterline, shall be ± 2 inches (51 mm), unless otherwise specified by the design engineer. The construction tolerance for the location of the design waterline shall be in accordance with Table 803.1.
Table 803.1	Design waterline construction tolerance	(new)	(see table)