

OKLAHOMA UNIFORM BUILDING CODE COMMISSION

**COMMERCIAL SWIMMING POOL AND SPA TECHNICAL CODE REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

UNIFORM BUILDING CODE COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM

2401 NW 23RD STREET, SUITE 82

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73107

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025 – 1:30 P.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Birdwell, Aboutanaa Elhabti, Dan Favata, John Gill, Geary McMillon, Kyle Melson and Pamela Searcy

ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jarrett Hughes and John Treadwell

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Gary Hornsby

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Adcock (OUBCC Staff), Kathy Hehnly (OUBCC Staff), and Caitlin Redding Taylor (OUBCC Staff)

CALL TO ORDER:

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Discussion and possible approval of November 3, 2025, technical review committee meeting minutes

MR. MICHAEL ZIMMERMAN MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND FROM MR. RYAN RUSSELL TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 3, 2025, COMMERCIAL SWIMMING POOL AND SPA TECHNICAL CODE REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

VOTING AYE:	Jeff Birdwell	Geary McMillon
	Aboutanaa Elhabti	Kyle Melson
	John Gill	Pamela Searcy

VOTING NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Discussion, review and possible action on Chapter 1 of the 2024 edition of the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code® (ISPSC)

Discussion, review and call for any comments regarding Chapter 1

Discussion on 2024 IRC® Preamble, Chapter 1 and Appendices examples

Ms. Hehnly shared information about the Preamble, Chapter 1 and Appendices example that was provided to the committee. She clarified that the appendices contained nonmandatory language and were used either when language was removed from the IRC or when a provision was considered unnecessary for mandatory adoption. She pointed out the swimming pool and spa appendix that required compliance with the ISPSC and explained that the Residential Swimming Pool and Spa Technical Committee would later amend the IRC to return that material to the adopted code when the ISPSC was adopted.

Discussion and possible approval of Chapter 1

MR. JEFF BIRDWELL MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND FROM MR. JOHN GILL TO APPROVE CHAPTER 1 AS WRITTEN

VOTING AYE:	Jeff Birdwell	Geary McMillon
	Aboutanaa Elhabti	Kyle Melson
	Dan Favata	Pamela Searcy
	John Gill	

VOTING NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Discussion, review and possible action on Chapter 2 of the 2024 edition of the ISPSC®

Discussion, review and call for any comments regarding Chapter 2

The committee discussed the definitions provided in the chapter. It was noted that reviewing definitions early in the code cycle could be difficult because needed changes may become apparent later when reviewing further chapters. Mr. Adcock shared that the chapter could be approved now and if the committee found a definition to be amended later, they could go back and review and vote to add something and reapprove the chapter. There was discussion about the definition of “maintained illumination,” as it was pointed out that the definition used “foot candles,” but more modern equipment uses “lumens” or “lux” and that fixture packaging no longer listed foot-candle measurements. Concerns were raised about practical field application and consistency with contemporary product labeling. After further discussion, the committee determined there was not an issue with product labeling and no further change was needed. If not, something saying that someone was looking at making a proposed change would be appropriate.

Discussion and possible approval of Chapter 2

MR. ABOUTANAA ELHABTI MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND FROM MR. JOHN GILL TO APPROVE CHAPTER 2 AS WRITTEN

VOTING AYE:	Jeff Birdwell	Geary McMillon
	Aboutanaa Elhabti	Kyle Melson
	Dan Favata	Pamela Searcy
	John Gill	

VOTING NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Discussion, review and possible action on Chapter 3 of the 2024 edition of the ISPSC®

Discussion, review and call for any comments regarding Chapter 3

Mr. Birdwell shared that approval of Chapter 3 was not anticipated during the current meeting, as the chapter contained a majority of the requirements affecting the industry and the review could be lengthy. The committee discussed concrete strength requirements, noting that ACI 318 currently listed a 2500 PSI minimum, while ACI 506.8 had updated the requirements to 4000 PSI in June 2025. There was discussion of creating a code change proposal to adopt the newer ACI references for structural concrete and shotcrete in residential and commercial pools.

The committee began a comprehensive review of each section and subsection. There was discussion about Section 303.1.3 and the practicality of providing covers in commercial settings and the competitive disadvantage for builders if uninspected mandates were adopted. It was noted that safety risks could increase for certain installations, and the committee expressed interest in striking the section. During review of Section 302, concerns were raised that existing practices did not include inspections for suction outlet dimensional compliance even though the code stated that such components “shall be inspected.” There was discussion about who the authority having jurisdiction would be, whether certification or special inspections might be required, and whether amendments would be necessary to clarify inspection responsibility.

There was additional discussion on wastewater discharge requirements and the feasibility of providing an air-gap for deck drains and whether direct tie-ins to sanitary systems posed actual health risks. It was agreed that an amendment would be necessary to clarify this requirement. The committee reviewed maintenance and manual requirements and noted that manufacturers increasingly relied on digital manuals or QR codes. It was agreed that the existing language did not require hard-copy materials and could remain unchanged.

The committee reviewed heater shutoff requirements in Section 303.1.1 and there was discussion about the requirement for an on-off switch within 3 feet of the heater in addition to the circuit breaker. There was concern that equipment rooms rarely accommodated a switch within 3 feet and that the code did not align with existing installation practices. There was

discussion of modifying the distance requirement or striking the sentence entirely. It was stated that the emergency-stop switches for spas may meet the requirement but the committee agreed these topics should be brought up at the December 8 training for discussion.

The committee reviewed Section 303.1.3 concerning vapor-retardant covers for heated outdoor pools and permanent spas, discussing fairness and feasibility, safety concerns involving covers on small commercial spas, competitive disadvantages if only some builders included covers in bids, and difficulty in verifying the 75% renewable-energy exemption. Strong concern was expressed that the requirement was inappropriate for commercial installations and unenforceable on the residential side. The committee agreed this section could be stricken via a code change proposal.

The committee reviewed requirements for construction-site fencing at pool excavations and it was noted that although not widely practiced, the requirement improved safety. While reviewing Section 305.2.1 Barrier height and clearances, there was discussion about the code referencing spacing that “shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm),” but other sections including 305.2.2 state “shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.” There was consensus to unify the language in the sections to the later. Mr. Treadwell indicated he would create a code change proposal for the change.

There was concern about Section 305.3 regarding equipment located outside the barrier. It was stated that this caused confusion regarding the meaning of “not less than 36 inches,” and it was agreed that the section required further review. Questions were raised about panic hardware requirements in assembly occupancies and ADA considerations. Committee members noted that apartment complexes and similar facilities could have many windows facing pool areas, and that alarms might technically be required on all of them under the code. The committee pointed out inconsistencies between practical enforcement and code language and acknowledged that residential and commercial conditions differed substantially. Further discussion addressed whether screen enclosures could serve as barriers and whether manufacturer verification of mesh strength would be necessary. There was a question about how slip-resistance testing would be performed for field-poured concrete and whether such testing was feasible or enforceable.

Discussion and possible approval of Chapter 3

The committee agreed to conclude the review for the day and resume review and approval of Chapter 3 at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT: (3:25 P.M.)

MR. ABOUTANAA ELHABTI MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY MR. JOHN GILL TO ADJOURN

VOTING AYE:	Jeff Birdwell	Geary McMillon
	Aboutanaa Elhabti	Kyle Melson
	Dan Favata	Pamela Searcy
	John Gill	

VOTING NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Minutes approved in the regular meeting on the 17th day of December, 2025.

JEFF BIRDWELL
Jeff Birdwell, Chairman
Commercial Swimming Pool and Spa Technical Code
Review Committee

PREPARED BY: CAITLIN REDDING TAYLOR
Caitlin Redding Taylor, Commercial Swimming Pool and Spa Technical Code Review Committee
Secretary

Official copy: Original with signature in office file.