

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, JANUARY 21, 2025 – 1:30 P.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Hornsby and John Treadwell

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Dan Favata

ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Adcock (OUBCC Staff), Kathy Hehnlly (OUBCC Staff), Caitlin Redding Taylor (OUBCC Staff), John Moore (City of Piedmont) and Roger Roth (Tulsa Health Dept)

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Jeff Birdwell called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Discussion and possible approval of December 17, 2025, technical review committee meeting minutes

MR. JOHN GILL MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND FROM MR. KYLE MELSON TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 17, 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: Dan Favata

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

Discussion and possible action on code change proposal form CSPSTC-1 amending Section 305.2.1 "Barrier Height and Clearances"

The committee reviewed the code change proposal and discussed the difference between horizontal and vertical spacing requirements and whether the existing code language was already sufficiently clear. Mr. Treadwell explained the intent was to simplify the code for contractors and inspectors, improve life safety by eliminating inconsistent opening size allowances, and remove confusion about why some parts of a barrier allowed the passage of a 4-inch sphere while others did not. It was noted that during a recent education training on swimming pool design, installation and inspection, an ICC representative was unaware of the difference in requirements, which reinforced the concern that the current language was confusing.

The committee discussed that the existing code distinguished between horizontal openings and vertical clearances, and that the commentary explained the different measurement methods. There was discussion that the current language was clear but the proposal would improve consistency with other guard and railing requirements. It was noted that most guard requirements did not allow the passage of a 4-inch sphere and that inspectors commonly used a 4-inch sphere tool, which supported the need for consistent requirements.

The committee discussed the difference between language stating "openings shall not exceed 4 inches" and language stating "openings shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch sphere". There was discussion that the existing language could allow an opening of exactly 4 inches, while the proposed language would require a smaller opening. It was also noted that bottom clearances of 4 inches over concrete and 2 inches over grass would still apply. The committee discussed applying the same language change to item 3 as well for consistency.

MS. PAMELA SEARCY MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND FROM MR. KYLE MELSON TO APPROVE CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL CSPSTC-1 AMENDED TO INCLUDE "ALLOW PASSAGE" IN ITEM #3

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

VOTING NAY: Jeff Birdwell

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dan Favata

Discussion, review and call for any further comments regarding Chapter 3

The committee discussed Section 308 "Elevated Pools", including whether a pool located above a habitable space should be considered an elevated pool and subject to the referenced PHTA-10 standard. There was discussion on the intent of the elevated pool provisions, potential structural risks, and inspection considerations. It was noted that the code language adopted the PHTA-10 standard by reference if the section was not modified. There was discussion about obtaining

copies of PHTA-10 for the committee's review before taking action, and the discussion was tabled pending review of that standard.

The committee reviewed Section 314.4 "Location" related to pumps and motors, discussing whether to add an 18-inch minimum clearance requirement in front of motors to provide consistent service access, noting the manufacturer requirements varied. It was stated that adding a minimum clearance could create consistency, particularly for health department inspections. Mr. Treadwell plans to submit a code change proposal for the section.

The committee then discussed Section 316.5 "Equalizers" related to skimmers. There was discussion about safety concerns including suction entrapment hazards and maintenance issues with covers. It was noted that recent standards and code changes were moving toward eliminating equalizer lines in new construction. There was discussion about circulation issues if equalizers were removed, including the potential for pump shutdown, loss of water circulation, and water quality issues; and alternatives such as automatic water fills, alarms, or other design changes to maintain circulation.

There was discussion about how state law excluded housing association pools from state regulation but that local jurisdictions could still classify those pools as commercial or semi-public and apply local code requirements, and the need for clear definitions to avoid inconsistent enforcement among jurisdictions. The committee also discussed issues related to Airbnb and rented residential pools, and whether those should be classified as commercial or semi-public pools. It was noted that definitions might need to be revised to address those situations and to ensure consistent application of requirements.

The committee reviewed Section 302.7 "Tests" related to electrical, plumbing, mechanical and fuel gas requirements. There was discussion on practical implications, particularly in cold weather, and the need to consider inspection procedures. Mr. Roth shared that he would submit a code change proposal prohibiting the use of compressed air for testing, which would be consistent with manufacturer recommendations and plumbing code.

There was discussion regarding residential energy provisions and the coordination between the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and Chapter 11 of the 2024 IRC. It was stated that either the IECC residential provisions would not be adopted or identical changes would be included so both codes reflected the same requirements. There was discussion of Section C401 of the IECC, which required pool heaters to meet an 82 percent thermal efficiency, and it was noted that most available heaters already met that threshold.

The committee reviewed Section 320.3 "Secondary disinfection systems" for therapy pools and other increased-risk venues and discussed ultraviolet and ozone systems, cost, operational concerns, and whether the section should be removed or remain to regulate splash pads. There was discussion about the application of code changes to existing facilities, noting that codes were generally not retroactive and typically applied only to new construction or the portion being remodeled.

There was discussion about pool bonding changes and National Electrical Code Section E4204.2. The committee agreed that bonding the shell alone did not satisfy the requirement for bonding pool water unless a listed conductive surface in direct contact with the water was provided. There

was discussion about bonding methods and remodels, including a decision from the Residential Swimming Pool and Spa Technical Committee that replastering a pool with a single drain would require installation of dual drains or an approved alternative.

Discussion and possible approval of Chapter 3

Approval of the chapter was tabled until all items were addressed.

ADJOURNMENT: (3:34 P.M.)

MR. KYLE MELSON MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY MR. ABOUTANAA ELHABTI TO ADJOURN COMMITTEE MINUTES

VOTING AYE:	Jeff Birdwell	Geary McMillon
	Aboutanaa Elhabti	Kyle Melson
	John Gill	Pamela Searcy
VOTING NAY:	None	
ABSTAIN:	None	
ABSENT:	Dan Favata	

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.