

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, FEBRUARY 18, 2025 – 1:30 P.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Birdwell, John Gill, Kyle Melson and Pamela Searcy

ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Hornsby, Jarrett Hughes and John Treadwell

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Aboutanaa Elhabti, Dan Favata and Geary McMillon

ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Adcock (OUBCC Staff), Kathy Hehnly (OUBCC Staff), Caitlin Redding Taylor (OUBCC Staff), and Daniel DeGeus (Oklahoma City-County Health Department)

VIRTUAL ATTENDEES:

None

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Jeff Birdwell called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Discussion and possible approval of January 21, 2026, technical review committee meeting minutes

MR. KYLE MELSON MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND FROM MR. JOHN GILL TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 21, 2026, COMMERCIAL SWIMMING POOL AND SPA TECHNICAL CODE REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

VOTING AYE:	Jeff Birdwell	Kyle Melson
	John Gill	Pamela Searcy
	Gary Hornsby	John Treadwell

VOTING NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Aboutanaa Elhabti
Dan Favata
Geary McMillon

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-2 amending Section 302.7 "Tests"

The committee reviewed the proposal regarding testing of plastic water piping systems, proposing to permit compressed air testing when water was not readily available or when climate conditions were unsuitable. The committee discussed concerns with ambiguous wording, particularly the phrase "easily accessible," and noted the need to preserve the code's safety intent favoring water testing. It was discussed that compressed air can present hazards due to pressure spikes and potential reactions with solvents, which is why the ISPSC originally required water testing. The committee agreed the concept was acceptable but required clearer exception language and AHJ oversight.

The committee discussed revising the language to require testing be performed using water as the default method, with an exception allowing an alternative, approved test method when the water supply is not available or when climate conditions are not conducive. The inclusion of the term "approved" was intended to ensure authority having jurisdiction review.

MR. GARY HORNSBY MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND FROM MS. PAMELA SEARCY TO APPROVE CSPSTC-2 WITH AMENDMENT TO READ: "TESTS ON WATER PIPING SYSTEMS CONSTRUCTED OF PLASTIC PIPING SHALL BE DONE USING WATER. EXCEPTION: IF WATER SUPPLY IS NOT AVAILABLE OR IF THE CLIMATE IS NOT CONDUCIVE, AN ALTERNATE, APPROVED TEST MAY BE UTILIZED."

VOTING AYE:	Jeff Birdwell	Kyle Melson
	John Gill	Pamela Searcy
	Gary Hornsby	John Treadwell

VOTING NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Aboutanaa Elhabti
Dan Favata
Geary McMillon

Discussion and possible action on code change proposal form CSPSTC-4 amending Section 303.1.3 "Covers"

Mr. Birdwell shared with the group that the existing code required outdoor heated pools and permanent spas to have a vapor-retardant cover or "other approved vapor-retardant means." However, the phrase "other approved vapor-retardant means" was not defined anywhere in the code. This lack of definition led to inconsistent enforcement among jurisdictions, as many code officials interpreted the requirement as allowing only physical covers such as solar blankets or automatic covers. The proposal was introduced to clarify what types of alternatives could qualify as an approved vapor-retardant method and added language stating that approved vapor-retardant means may include liquid evaporation suppressant products that are listed and labeled for use in swimming pools or spas and applied and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions. This change explicitly recognized liquid evaporation suppressant products as a valid alternative to physical covers while maintaining the original option of installing a cover. The intent was to clarify that these products can meet the code requirement for reducing evaporation and heat loss from outdoor heated pools and spas. During discussion, the committee amended the proposal language to no longer be included within Section 303.1.3 but to be a new subsection, Section 303.1.3.1 so that it remained within the cover requirements section of the code.

Mr. Birdwell shared that the amendment was intended to eliminate ambiguity and promote consistent enforcement while still allowing approval by the code official, that the change could reduce project costs by allowing an alternative to physical covers, which can range from several hundred dollars for a solar blanket to tens of thousands of dollars for an automatic cover, and should have no life-safety impact because it addresses evaporation and energy conservation

rather than safety features such as barriers, entrapment protection, electrical systems, or suction safety requirements.

MR. JEFF BIRDWELL MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND FROM MR. GARY HORNSBY TO AMEND CSPSTC-4 TO CREATE SUBSECTION 303.1.3.1 TITLED "APPROVED VAPOR-RETARDANT MEANS" READING "APPROVED VAPOR-RETARDANT MEANS SHALL BE PERMITTED TO INCLUDE LIQUID EVAPORATION-SUPPRESSANT PRODUCTS THAT ARE LISTED AND LABELED FOR USE IN SWIMMING POOLS OR SPAS AND ARE APPLIED AND MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS."

VOTING AYE:	Jeff Birdwell	Kyle Melson
	John Gill	John Treadwell
	Gary Hornsby	

VOTING NAY: Pamela Searcy

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Aboutanaa Elhabti
Dan Favata
Geary McMillon

Discussion and possible action on code change proposal form CSPSTC-5 amending Section 305.4 "Structure wall as a barrier"

The committee reviewed the proposal which introduced an additional compliance option allowing the use of a pool alarm detection system, such as AI-based camera systems. Mr. Birdwell shared that the proposed system would detect entry into the pool water and activate an alarm. The intent was to allow safety systems that monitor actual water entry rather than only monitoring doors or windows that lead to the pool area. The original proposal created a new subsection numbered 305.4.3 but the committee noted that Section 305.4 already contains a numbered list of acceptable protection methods, so the proposed change should instead be inserted as an additional numbered item within the existing list rather than creating a new subsection.

The proposal originally included detailed performance requirements for the detection system, such as detecting entry into the water, activating an audible alarm of at least 85 decibels, triggering within seven seconds of disturbance, automatically resetting, remaining continuously powered, and providing an alarm inside the dwelling. The committee discussed whether those technical requirements needed to appear directly in the code. It was noted that the referenced standard, ASTM F2208, already contains performance requirements for residential pool alarms, including detection capability, alarm volume, and activation timing. Because those requirements are already covered by the standard, the committee determined the code did not need to repeat them. It was shared that door and window alarms required by current code are sometimes installed only for inspection and later removed by homeowners.

MR. JEFF BIRDWELL MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND FROM MR. KYLE MELSON TO ACCEPT CSPSTC-5 AMENDED TO ADD A NEW NUMBERED ITEM UNDER SECTION 305.4, ITEM NUMBER 7, READING "A LISTED AND LABELED POOL DETECTION SYSTEM COMPLYING WITH ASTM F2208."

VOTING AYE:	Jeff Birdwell	Kyle Melson
	John Gill	Pamela Searcy
	Gary Hornsby	John Treadwell

VOTING NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Aboutanaa Elhabti
Dan Favata
Geary McMillon

Discussion and possible action on code change proposal form CSPSTC-6 amending Section 307.2.2 "Reservoirs and shells"

The committee reviewed the proposal which recommended deleting an existing exception that allowed reinforced concrete or shotcrete pool shells with a compressive strength of 2500 psi when designed by a registered design professional and approved by the building official. The committee reviewed current structural standards referenced by the code, including ACI 318 and ACI 350, which generally require higher compressive strengths for concrete used in pool structures. Concerns were raised that the exception could allow shells designed below the minimum standards typically required by recognized engineering practices. The committee determined that removing the exception would improve clarity and promote consistent application of structural standards while strengthening durability and performance expectations for pool shells.

MS. PAMELA SEARCY MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND FROM MR. KYLE MELSON TO ACCEPT CSPSTC-6 AS PRESENTED AMENDED TO ADD A NEW NUMBERED ITEM UNDER SECTION 305.4, ITEM NUMBER 7

VOTING AYE:	Jeff Birdwell	Kyle Melson
	John Gill	Pamela Searcy
	Gary Hornsby	John Treadwell

VOTING NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Aboutanaa Elhabti
Dan Favata

Discussion and possible action on code change proposal form CSPSTC-3 amending Section 314.4 "Location"

The committee reviewed the proposal which addressed minimum clearances for equipment installation. The proposal established a minimum clearance of 18 inches even when manufacturer instructions permitted smaller clearances. Discussion noted that manufacturer

specifications occasionally allowed clearances as small as 12 inches and that a consistent minimum clearance would improve accessibility for service and inspection. The committee confirmed that the proposed language requiring manufacturer specifications to be followed but not less than 18 inches was consistent with typical code language and aligned with other regulatory requirements.

MR. KYLE MELSON MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND FROM MR. JEFF BIRDWELL TO ACCEPT CSPSTC-3 AS PRESENTED

VOTING AYE:	Jeff Birdwell	Kyle Melson
	John Gill	Pamela Searcy
	Gary Hornsby	John Treadwell

VOTING NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Aboutanaa Elhabti
Dan Favata

Discussion, review and call for any comments regarding Chapter 3

The committee completed its review of Chapter 3 and confirmed that no additional code change proposals were presented for that chapter. It was acknowledged that the chapter had been fully reviewed and that the amendments previously approved would be incorporated into the committee's recommendations.

Discussion and possible approval of Chapter 3

Approval of the chapter was tabled.

ADJOURNMENT: (3:31 P.M.)

MR. KYLE MELSON MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY MR. JOHN GILL TO ADJOURN

VOTING AYE:	Jeff Birdwell	Kyle Melson
	John Gill	Pamela Searcy
	Gary Hornsby	John Treadwell

VOTING NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Aboutanaa Elhabti
Dan Favata
Geary McMillon

Minutes approved in the regular meeting on the 18th day of March, 2026.

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.