

**UNIFORM BUILDING CODE COMMISSION  
COMMERCIAL SWIMMING POOL & SPA  
TECHNICAL CODE REVIEW COMMITTEE (CSPSTC)  
PRESENTATION**

Recommendations for modifications to the  
2024 Edition of the International Swimming  
Pool and Spa Code® (ISPSC)

**Presented by:** Jeff Birdwell, Chairman

**Date:** DATE



**OKLAHOMA**

# Committee Members

## **Commission Liaison:**

Dan Favata

## **Committee Volunteers:**

Jeff Birdwell, Commercial Pool Contractor

Aboutanaa Elhabti, Department of Health Representative

John Gill, Electrical Code Official

Gary Hornsby, Alternate Dept of Health Rep

Jarrett Hughes, Alternate Pool Contractor

Geary McMillon, Plumbing Code Official

Kyle Melson, Building Code Official

Pamela Searcy, Architect/Engineer

John Treadwell, Alternate Code Official

# Chapter Summary

## **Chapters 1-6 and 11 were reviewed**

Chapter(s) 1 was approved as written

Chapters 2,3, were approved as amended



## General Summary Information:

The CSPSTC conducted a thorough, formal review of the 2024 edition of the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code®, Chapters 1-6 and 11.

### Code Change Proposal Summary:

#### **27 Code Change proposal forms were received and reviewed**

- 1 Code change proposal form was withdrawn by the submitter
- 15 Code change proposal forms were approved as submitted
- 3 Code change proposal forms were approved as amended
- 2 Code change proposal forms were denied

## Swimming Pool and Spa Ad Hoc Committee:

Because both the Commercial and Residential Swimming Pool and Spa Committees were reviewing and proposing amendments to the same code book and shared chapters, each committee reviewed the code change proposals approved by the other committee and voted to approve or deny them. Several proposals were tabled after questions and concerns remained unresolved.

To address those outstanding issues, an ad hoc committee consisting of the Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Commission Liaisons from both committees met on April 29, 2026 to review the tabled proposals requiring additional discussion and clarification. No official action was taken, and all proposals were returned to the respective committees for further review and formal action.



# Proposed Changes to the 2024 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code®

The following slides contain proposed changes to the 2024 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code® (ISPSC®). All proposed amendments whether approved or denied by the committee are included in this section with the submitter's justification for the proposal, committee commentary and committee motion to approve or deny included.



## Code Change Proposal Form: CSPSTC-11 – Defining “HOME SHARING FACILITY”

**HOME SHARING FACILITY.** A residential dwelling unit made available to transient user for short-term overnight lodging in exchange for monetary compensation or commercial consideration pursuant to a posted fee schedule, where sanitation facilities within the dwelling are accessible to occupants during the rental period.

### **Summary of Proposed Change:**

Short-term lodging platforms facilitate rental of residential dwellings — including associated pool amenities — to transient overnight users. While this use pattern presents a lower public health risk than pool sharing arrangements due to lower bather turnover and the presence of sanitation facilities within the dwelling, it remains a commercial use that exceeds the scope of a private residential pool classification. The daily rental structure limits cumulative bather load, and the presence of sanitation facilities within the dwelling reduces the contamination risk associated with pool-only rental arrangements. However, the absence of required water quality testing and lack of water chemistry management between rental groups still presents an elevated public health risk above that of a purely private residential pool. Without a specific definition, home sharing facilities with pools occupy a regulatory gray area that neither residential nor existing commercial pool classifications adequately address. This leaves AHJs without a clear and enforceable standard for inspecting and classifying these facilities. The same definitional gaps that have allowed pool sharing platforms to successfully challenge regulation in Wisconsin, North Carolina, Maryland, and New Jersey apply equally to home sharing facilities operating without a defined classification.



This definition establishes clear, compensation-triggered and platform-agnostic language proportionate to the actual risk profile of home sharing pool use. The "posted fee schedule" trigger is observable, future-proof, and distinguishes commercial rental arrangements from casual social use. This change directly impacts life safety by ensuring that pools associated with short-term lodging rentals are subject to appropriate oversight, water quality standards, and inspection requirements commensurate with their actual risk profile while remaining proportionate to the lower risk level relative to pool sharing facilities.

**Committee Commentary:**

The committee reviewed this proposal at the May 20, 2026 meeting.

**Committee Action Taken:**



## Code Change Proposal Form: CSPSTC-14 – Amending definition of “PUBLIC POOL, Class C semi-public pool”

**PUBLIC POOL, Class C semi-public pool.** A pool operated solely for and in conjunction with lodgings such as hotels, motels, apartments, ~~or~~ condominiums, or home sharing facilities as defined in Section 202.

### Summary of Proposed Change:

The submitter noted that they visited with several residential and commercial pool contractors that have used compressed air to check pool plumbing their whole careers. None of them had encountered any safety issues with that type of testing or had issues with using water but expressed concern over availability and or temperature issues.

### Committee Commentary:

The committee reviewed this proposal at the May 20, 2026 meeting.

### Committee Action Taken:



## Code Change Proposal Form: CSPSTC-12 – Defining “POOL SHARING FACILITY”

**POOL SHARING FACILITY.** A residential swimming pool or aquatic amenity made available to transient users in exchange for monetary compensation or commercial consideration pursuant to a posted fee schedule, on an hourly or short-term basis, where no overnight lodging is provided.

### **Summary of Proposed Change:**

Pool sharing platforms facilitate hourly rental of residential pools to transient users. This use pattern creates elevated public health risk due to high bather turnover, absence of required sanitation facilities, lack of required water quality testing, and lack of water chemistry management between rental groups. A residential pool is not designed or equipped to handle the contamination load associated with multiple transient bather groups cycling through in a single day.

Without a specific definition, AHJs lack a clear regulatory hook to classify and inspect these facilities. Jurisdictions that have attempted to regulate pool sharing without defined classifications have faced legal challenges from platform operators exploiting definitional gaps in existing code. Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection was forced to back down from enforcement after a leading pool sharing platform threatened litigation, specifically because the existing code lacked an intermediate classification between residential and full public pool standards. Similar regulatory challenges have occurred in North Carolina, Maryland, and New Jersey.



As of April 30, 2026, a leading pool sharing platform lists 11 residential pools available for rent in Oklahoma with a combined total of 382 recorded rentals, demonstrating that this use type is already active and unregulated within the state.

This definition establishes clear, compensation-triggered and platform-agnostic language that gives AHJs an enforceable and documentable standard. The "posted fee schedule" trigger is observable, future-proof, and distinguishes commercial rental arrangements from casual social use. This change directly impacts life safety by ensuring that pools operating under a commercial use pattern are subject to appropriate oversight, water quality standards, and inspection requirements commensurate with their actual risk profile.

**Committee Commentary:**

The committee reviewed this proposal at the May 20, 2026 meeting.

**Committee Action Taken:**



## Code Change Proposal Form: CSPSTC-9 – Defining “POOL SHARING” and amending definition of “PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL (Public Pool), Class C semi-public pool”

**POOL SHARING** - The act of renting a residential pool for public use independent of the main dwelling and accessory dwelling units located on the property. Pools used for pool sharing shall be classified Class C semi-public pools and shall provide accessible routes and egress in accordance with the IBC and this code and access to sanitary facilities in accordance with Section 410.1 of this code.

**PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL (Public Pool).** A pool, other than a residential pool, that is intended to be used for swimming or bathing and is operated by an owner, lessee, operator, licensee or concessionaire, regardless of whether a fee is charged for use. Public pools shall be further classified and defined as follows:

**Class A competition pool.** A pool intended for use for accredited competitive aquatic events such as Federation Internationale De Natation (FINA), USA Swimming, USA Diving, USA Synchronized Swimming, USA Water Polo, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), or the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

**Class B public pool.** A pool intended for public recreational use that is not identified in the other classifications of public pools.

**Class C semi-public pool.** A pool operated ~~solely~~ for and in conjunction with lodgings such as hotels, motels, apartments, ~~or~~ condominiums, and pool sharing.



**Class D-1 wave action pool.** A pool designed to simulate breaking or cyclic waves for purposes of general play or surfing.

**Class D-2 activity pool.** A pool designed for casual water play ranging from simple splashing activity to the use of attractions placed in the pool for recreation.

**Class D-3 catch pool.** A body of water located at the termination of a manufactured waterslide attraction. The body of water is provided for the purpose of terminating the slide action and providing a means for exit to a deck or walkway area.

**Class D-4 leisure river.** A manufactured stream of water of near-constant depth in which the water is moved by pumps or other means of propulsion to provide a river-like flow that transports bathers over a defined path that may include water features and play devices.

**Class D-5 vortex pool.** A circular pool equipped with a method of transporting water in the pool for the purpose of propelling riders at speeds dictated by the velocity of the moving stream of water.

**Class D-6 interactive play attraction.** A manufactured water play device or a combination of water-based play devices in which water flow volumes, pressures or patterns can be varied by the bather without negatively influencing the hydraulic conditions for other connected devices. These attractions incorporate devices or activities such as slides, climbing and crawling structures, visual effects, user-actuated mechanical devices and other elements of bather-driven and bather-controlled play.

**Class E.** Pools used for instruction, play or therapy and with temperatures above 86°F (30°C).



**Class F.** Class F pools are wading pools and are covered within the scope of this code as set forth in Section 405. Public pools are either a diving or nondiving type. Diving types of public pools are classified into types as an indication of the suitability of a pool for use with diving equipment.

**Type O.** A nondiving public pool.

**Types VI–IX.** Public pools suitable for the installation of diving equipment by type.

**Summary of Proposed Change:**

The submitter shared that pools constructed for residential use are not subject to the same maintenance and care requirements as commercial pools. They are also not required to provide sanitary facilities or accessible access. Depending on the residential lot size and zoning, pool barriers may not be required by local jurisdictions for residential pools. When pools are rented for public use for large gatherings independent of dwelling units, this creates life safety concerns that the homeowner and renters may not be aware of. By defining "Pool Sharing" and classifying it as a Class C Semi-Public pool with a special requirement to provide access to sanitary facilities, these concerns can be mitigated without adding too much burden to homeowners while ensuring safe public use.



**Committee Commentary:**

The committee reviewed this proposal at the May 20, 2026 meeting.

**Committee Action Taken:**



## Code Change Proposal Form: CSPSTC-10 – Amending definition of “PUBLIC POOL, Class B public pool”

**CLASS B PUBLIC POOL.** A pool intended for public recreational use that is not identified in other classifications of public pools. Including pool sharing facilities as defined in Section 202.

### Summary of Proposed Change:

Pool sharing platforms facilitate hourly rental of residential pools to transient users. This use pattern creates elevated public health risk due to high bather turnover, absence of required sanitation facilities, lack of required water quality testing, and lack of water chemistry management between rental groups. A residential pool is not designed or equipped to handle the contamination load associated with multiple transient bather groups cycling through in a single day. Without a specific definition, AHJs lack a clear regulatory hook to classify and inspect these facilities. Jurisdictions that have attempted to regulate pool sharing without defined classifications have faced legal challenges from platform operators exploiting definitional gaps in existing code. Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection was forced to back down from enforcement after a leading pool sharing platform threatened litigation, specifically because the existing code lacked an intermediate classification between residential and full public pool standards. Similar regulatory challenges have occurred in North Carolina, Maryland, and New Jersey.



**Summary of Proposed Change continued:**

As of April 30, 2026, a leading pool sharing platform lists 11 residential pools available for rent in Oklahoma with a combined total of 382 recorded rentals, demonstrating that this use type is already active and unregulated within the state. This definition establishes clear, compensation-triggered and platform-agnostic language that gives AHJs an enforceable and documentable standard.

The "posted fee schedule" trigger is observable, future-proof, and distinguishes commercial rental arrangements from casual social use. This change directly impacts life safety by ensuring that pools operating under a commercial use pattern are subject to appropriate oversight, water quality standards, and inspection requirements commensurate with their actual risk profile.

**Committee Commentary:**

The committee reviewed this proposal at the May 20, 2026 meeting.

**Committee Action Taken:**

## Code Change Proposal Form: RSPSTC-12 – Amending definition of “RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOL”

**RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOL (Residential Pool).** A pool intended for use that is accessory to a residential setting and available only to the household and its guests. Other pools, including pools used to generate commerce through pool sharing, shall be considered to be public pools for purposes of this code.

### Summary of Proposed Change:

The submitter noted the definition has been modified to clarify that pools used for revenue generation through “pool sharing” are not residential pools. The increased occupant volume created by "pool sharing" is not considered in the requirements for a residential pool. The "pool sharing" pool is acting more in line with a public pool, and can see exponentially more users in a set period of time than was designed for a household and guest(s). The submitter noted that there is generally a presumption that a pool open to the public, especially when there is an entry fee, is safe and compliant with applicable codes, but a residential pool used in this manner can present a life safety risk to unknowing occupant.

### Committee Commentary:

This proposal was first reviewed by the RSPSTC at the February 19, 2026 meeting. The committee discussed the definition of residential swimming pools in light of growing use for revenue through short term rentals and pool sharing platforms. The RSPSTC voted to approve Proposed Code Change Form RSPSTC-12 as presented. (2/19/2026)



**Committee Commentary continued:**

The CSPSTC committee reviewed the code change proposal at the April 15, 2026 meeting. Concerns were raised about enforcement, the distinction between guests and paid users, and the potential impact on builders who construct residential pools but have no control over future use by the owner. It was discussed that the responsibility for use and compliance rests with the property owner rather than the builder. The committee also discussed the broader issue of pool sharing applications and high turnover use, including sanitation concerns and lack of required facilities such as restrooms. It was recommended that it be added to Class C swimming pool classification. The committee determined that the proposal required clearer definitions but would be presented to the committee for discussion.

The ad hoc committee reviewed the proposal at the April 29, 20226 meeting. The committee discussed concerns involving transient occupancy, increased bather loads, sanitation, restroom access, water turnover, and life safety risks associated with commercial style use of residential pools. Discussion was held regarding whether these uses should be classified as public pools or Class C semi public pools and whether existing residential language referring to “guests” was too broad and allowed commercial pool sharing operations to avoid regulation. The committee ultimately agreed the proposal should be withdrawn temporarily while the commercial committee developed revised classification language for pool sharing and short term rental pools to be brought back to both committees for future consideration.

**Committee Action Taken:**

## Code Change Proposal Form: RSPSTC-11 – Amending definition of “PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL”

### **PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL (Public Pool)**

A pool, other than a residential pool, that is intended to be used for swimming or bathing and is operated by an owner, lessee, operator, licensee or concessionaire, regardless of whether a fee is charged for use. Public pools shall be further classified and defined as follows:

**Class A competition pool.** A pool intended for use for accredited competitive aquatic events such as Federation Internationale De Natation (FINA), USA Swimming, USA Diving, USA Synchronized Swimming, USA Water Polo, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), or the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

**Class B public pool.** A pool intended for public recreational use that is not identified in the other classifications of public pools.

**Class C semi-public pool.** A pool operated solely for and in conjunction with lodgings such as hotels, motels, apartments or condominiums, or in conjunction with a Homeowners Association (HOAs).

**Class D-1 wave action pool.** A pool designed to simulate breaking or cyclic waves for purposes of general play or surfing.

**Class D-2 activity pool.** A pool designed for casual water play ranging from simple splashing activity to the use of attractions placed in the pool for recreation.

**Class D-3 catch pool.** A body of water located at the termination of a manufactured waterslide attraction. The body of water is provided for the purpose of terminating the slide action and providing a means for exit to a deck or walkway area.



**Class D-4 leisure river.** A manufactured stream of water of near-constant depth in which the water is moved by pumps or other means of propulsion to provide a river-like flow that transports bathers over a defined path that may include water features and play devices.

**Class D-5 vortex pool.** A circular pool equipped with a method of transporting water in the pool for the purpose of propelling riders at speeds dictated by the velocity of the moving stream of water.

**Class D-6 interactive play attraction.** A manufactured water play device or a combination of water-based play devices in which water flow volumes, pressures or patterns can be varied by the bather without negatively influencing the hydraulic conditions for other connected devices. These attractions incorporate devices or activities such as slides, climbing and crawling structures, visual effects, user-actuated mechanical devices and other elements of bather-driven and bather-controlled play.

**Class E.** Pools used for instruction, play or therapy and with temperatures above 86°F (30°C).

**Class F.** Class F pools are wading pools and are covered within the scope of this code as set forth in Section 405. Public pools are either a diving or nondiving type. Diving types of public pools are classified into types as an indication of the suitability of a pool for use with diving equipment.

**Type O.** A nondiving public pool.

**Types VI–IX.** Public pools suitable for the installation of diving equipment by type.



### **Summary of Proposed Change:**

The proposed definition was described as providing a clearer distinction between residential pool use and commercial or public pool use so that code officials and municipalities would have a clear basis for enforcement when residential pools were used in ways that exceed residential design intent.

### **Committee Commentary:**

This proposal was first reviewed by the RSPSTC at the February 19, 2026 meeting. The proposed definition clarification was described as providing a clearer distinction between residential pool use and commercial or public pool use so that code officials and municipalities would have a clear basis for enforcement when residential pools were used in ways that exceed residential design intent. Additional discussion addressed possible conflicts with property rights and potential legislative scrutiny. The committee concluded that the clarification did not prohibit renting property but clarified how the pool must be classified when used for high occupancy or commercial activity. The RSPSTC voted to approve Proposed Code Change Form RSPSTC-11 (2/19/2026).

The CSPSTC reviewed the proposal at the April 15, 2026 meeting and discussed that this addition provided clarity, aligned with existing interpretations used in practice, and could assist code officials in consistently classifying HOA pools.

### **Committee Action Taken:**

Unanimous vote to approve Proposed Code Change Form RSPSTC-11 as presented.  
(4/15/2026)



## Code Change Proposal Form: CSPSTC-2 – Amending Section 302.7 “Tests”

**302.7 Tests.** Tests on water piping systems constructed of plastic piping shall ~~not use compressed air for the test.~~ 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.

### Summary of Proposed Change:

The submitter noted that they visited with several residential and commercial pool contractors that have used compressed air to check pool plumbing their whole careers. None of them had encountered any safety issues with that type of testing or had issues with using water but expressed concern over availability and or temperature issues.

### Committee Commentary:

The committee reviewed the proposal at the February 18, 2026 meeting. They discussed concerns with ambiguous wording, particularly “easily accessible,” and emphasized preserving the safety intent favoring water testing. Compressed air hazards were noted, supporting water as the default method. The committee supported allowing an approved alternative when water is unavailable or conditions are unsuitable, with AHJ oversight, but required clearer exception language.

### Committee Action Taken:

Unanimous vote to approve Code Change Proposal Form 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”. (2/18/2026)



## Code Change Proposal Form: RSPSTC-6 – Adding exception to Section 303.1.2 “Time Switches”

**303.1.2 Time switches.** Time switches or other control methods that can automatically turn off and on heaters and pump motors according to a preset schedule shall be installed for heaters and pump motors. Heaters and pump motors that have built-in time switches shall be in compliance with this section.

Exceptions:

1. Where public health standards require 24-hour pump operation.
2. Pumps that operate solar- or waste-heat recovery pool heating systems.
3. Not required on residential pools.

### Summary of Proposed Change:

The submitter noted this added an exception stating that time switches would not be required on residential pools.

### Committee Commentary:

This proposal was first reviewed by the RSPSTC at the February 19, 2026 meeting. The committee noted that most modern pumps and heaters include integrated controls or automation, making separate external time switches largely redundant. The committee agreed the intent was to eliminate the requirement for separate manual time switches in residential applications while recognizing that equipment level controls remain standard. The RSPSTC voted to approve Proposed Code Change Form RSPSTC-6. (2/19/2026).



**Committee Commentary continued:**

The CSPSTC reviewed the proposal at the April 15, 2026 meeting and discussed that residential pumps and heaters typically included built in scheduling controls, making additional external time switches unnecessary. It was agreed that requiring additional devices would not provide significant benefit and would increase cost without improving performance.

**Committee Action Taken:**

Unanimous vote to approve Code Change Proposal Form RSPSTC-6 (4/15/2026)



## Code Change Proposal Form: RSPSTC-7 – Adding exception to Section 303.1.3 “Covers”

**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 104.9.1.

Exceptions:

1. 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.
2. Not required on residential pools.

### Summary of Proposed Change:

The proposed change added an exception exempting residential pools from the automatic cover requirement.

### Committee Commentary:

This proposal was first reviewed by the RSPSTC at their February 19, 2026 meeting. There was discussion on enforcement challenges and noted that while covers can improve efficiency, there is limited practical ability to ensure residential owners consistently deployed them. Members agreed that providing flexibility while removing the residential mandate was appropriate. The RSPSTC voted to approve Proposed Code Change Form RSPSTC-7. (2/19/2026)



**Committee Commentary continued:**

The CSPSTC reviewed the proposal at the April 15, 2026 meeting. It was noted that the intent was consistent with prior discussion regarding unnecessary duplication of controls, and would align with residential exceptions.

**Committee Action Taken:**

Unanimous vote to approve Code Change Proposal Form RSPSTC-7 (4/15/2026)



## Code Change Proposal Form: CSPSTC-4 – Creating new subsection, Section 303.1.3.1 “Approved vapor-retardant means”

**303.1.3.1 Approved vapor-retardant means.** 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.”

### **Summary of Proposed Change:**

The submitter shared that the existing code required a vapor-retardant cover or “other approved vapor-retardant means,” but the latter was undefined, leading to inconsistent enforcement and limiting interpretations to physical covers. The proposal clarified that approved alternatives may include listed and labeled liquid evaporation suppressants applied per manufacturer instructions, recognizing them as a valid option for reducing evaporation and heat loss.

### **Committee Commentary:**

The committee reviewed the proposal at the February 18, 2026 meeting. The original proposal amended Section 303.1.3 “Covers” by including the language within the section. During discussion, the committee amended the 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.



**Committee Action Taken:**

Vote of five "for" and one "against" a motion to approve Code Change Proposal Form CSPSTC-4 amended 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." (2/18/2026)



## Code Change Proposal Form: CSPSTC-1 – Amending Section 305.2.1 “Barrier height and clearances”

**305.2.1 Barrier height and clearances.** Barrier heights and clearances shall be in accordance with all of the following:

1. The top of the barrier shall be not less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade where measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the pool or spa. Such height shall exist around the entire perimeter of the barrier and for a distance of 3 feet (914 mm) measured horizontally from the outside of the required barrier.
2. The vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall not exceed 2 inches (51 mm) for grade surfaces that are not solid, such as grass or gravel, where measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the pool or spa.
3. The vertical clearance between a surface below the barrier to a solid surface, such as concrete, and the bottom of the required barrier shall not ~~exceed 4 inches (102 mm)~~ allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere where measured on the side of the required barrier that faces away from the pool or spa.
4. Where the top of the pool or spa structure is above grade, the barrier shall be installed on grade or shall be mounted on top of the pool or spa structure. Where the barrier is mounted on the top of the pool or spa, the vertical clearance between the top of the pool or spa and the bottom of the barrier shall not ~~exceed 4 inches (102 mm)~~ allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.



**Summary of Proposed Change:**

The submitter noted that this change would establish consistent clearance requirements for pool barriers, simplifying design and improving safety by reducing entrapment risks for small children.

**Committee Commentary:**

The committee reviewed the proposal at the January 21, 2026 meeting. The committee discussed that the existing code distinguished between horizontal openings and vertical clearances, with commentary explaining the different measurement methods. It was noted that while the current language was clear, the proposal would improve consistency with other guard and railing requirements, which typically do not allow the passage of a 4-inch sphere and align with common inspection practices. The committee also reviewed the difference between language stating “openings shall not exceed 4 inches” and “openings shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch sphere,” noting that the former could permit an exact 4-inch opening while the latter would require a smaller opening. It was further 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.

**Committee Action Taken:**

Vote of five "for" and one "against" a motion to approve Proposed Code Change Form CSPSTC-1 amended to include “allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere” in Item #3. (1/21/2026)



## Code Change Proposal Form: CSPSTC-5 – Adding a new subsection to Section 305.4 “Structure wall as a barrier”

**305.4 Structure wall as a barrier.** 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.

7. A listed and labeled pool detection system complying with ASTM F2208.

### **Summary of Proposed Change:**

The proposal adds an alternate compliance pathway and does not remove the existing alarm requirement. The purpose of this requirement is to provide notification of unauthorized access to the pool area. The amendment does not eliminate existing safety requirements and does not reduce barrier protections. It provides an alternative compliance method that may improve detection reliability while maintaining life safety intent.

### **Committee Commentary:**

The committee reviewed the proposal at the February 18, 2026 meeting. They noted the proposal should be added as an additional item within Section 305.4, rather than creating a new subsection. It was discussed that the detailed performance requirements in the proposal were unnecessary since ASTM F2208 already addresses detection, alarm volume, and activation timing. The committee also noted that required door and window alarms are sometimes installed for inspection but later removed by homeowners.

### **Committee Action Taken:**

Unanimous vote to approve Code Change Proposal Form CSPSTC-5 as amended. (2/18/2026)



## Code Change Proposal Form: RSPSTC-8 – Adding exception to Section 306.2 “Slip resistant”

**306.2 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.

### Exception:

1. Not required on residential pools

### **Summary of Proposed Change:**

The proposed change would create an exception allowing homeowners greater discretion in finish materials.

### **Committee Commentary:**

The RSPSTC reviewed this proposal at the February 19, 2026 meeting. The committee discussed the slip resistance requirements for decks surrounding residential pools. Members noted that many residential clients requested decorative materials that may not strictly meet commercial slip resistance criteria. The committee discussed contractor liability, homeowner choice, and the practical reality that residential environments differ significantly from public facilities.



**Committee Commentary continued:**

Some members observed that contractors typically document material recommendations and can require owner acknowledgment when non preferred surfaces were selected. Unanimous vote to approve Proposed Code Change Form RSPSTC-8 as presented. (2/19/2026)

The CSPSTC reviewed the proposal at the April 15, 2026 meeting. The committee discussed that slip resistance was a critical safety requirement and should not be removed for residential applications. It was emphasized that proper slip resistance was necessary to prevent injuries and that contractors should be responsible for ensuring compliant materials were used. Unanimous vote to deny Code Change Proposal Form RSPSTC-8 as amended. (4/15/2026)

The ad hoc committee reviewed the proposal at the April 29, 2026 meeting. Discussion on RSPSTC-8 focused on concerns that the new testing and documentation requirements in Section 306.2 for slip resistant surfaces were overly subjective, difficult to enforce, and could unnecessarily increase residential pool construction costs. The committee discussed limiting the detailed testing requirements to commercial pools while retaining the simpler slip resistant language for residential pools.

**Committee Action Taken:**

## Code Change Proposal Form: RSPSTC-8 R1 – Amending "Slip resistant" and adding Section 306.2.1 "Public Pools"

### **306.2 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.~~

### **306.2.1 Public Pools.**

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.

### **Summary of Proposed Change:**

The intent is to make sure there isn't any confusion or undue burden brought on residential pools. It was discussed in committee that some materials that are used in residential pools that are considered slip resistant do not necessarily have any testing data.



**Committee Commentary:**

**Committee Action Taken:**



## Code Change Proposal Form: CSPSTC-6 – Amending Section 305.4 “Materials and structural design”

**307.2.2 Materials and structural design.** Pools and spas shall conform to one or more of the standards indicated in Table 307.2.2. The structural design of pools and spas shall be in accordance with the International Building Code or the International Residential Code, as applicable in accordance with Section 102.7.1 of this code.

**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/cm<sup>2</sup>) as designed by a design professional and approved shall be permitted.~~

**Summary of Proposed Change:**

The submitter noted that this proposal removes an exception in Section 307.2.2 that allowed alternate compliance outside referenced standards, which could lead to inconsistent enforcement. Deleting it improves clarity, ensures uniform application of structural requirements, and maintains AHJ authority. Life safety impact is positive due to increased consistency and reduced ambiguity. Any minor cost increase is negligible and offset by improved durability and structural performance.



**Committee Commentary:**

The committee reviewed the proposal at the February 18, 2026 meeting. 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. The RSPSTC approved an identical code change proposal, RSPSTC-13, at the February 19, 2026 meeting.

**Committee Action Taken:**

Unanimous vote to approve Proposed Code Change Form CSPSTC-6. (2/18/2026)



**Code Change Proposal Form: RSPSTC-15 – Adding Sections 307.2.6 “Protection of structures,” 307.2.6.1 “Walls and footings,” 307.2.6.2 “Retaining walls,” and 307.2.6.2.1 “Two Pools”**

**307.2.6 Protection of structures.** Residential pools shall be design and constructed as to not compromise adjacent structures.

**307.2.6.1 Walls and footings.** Residential pools adjacent to footings and walls shall be a minimum of 48” from the exterior face of walls and footings below and shall not extend into the bearing plane of a footing or wall. The upper boundary of the bearing plane is a line that extends downward, at an angle of 45 degrees (0.79 rad) from horizontal, from the outside bottom edge of the footing or wall.

Exception:

1. A pool designed by a registered design professional.

**307.2.6.2 Retaining walls.** Residential pools at the high side of a retaining wall shall be a minimum of 60" plus the overall height of the retaining wall away from the closest face of the retaining wall. Residential pools on the low side of a retaining wall shall comply with section 307.2.6.1.

Exception:

1. A pool designed by a registered design professional.

**307.2.6.2.1 Two Pools.** Residential pools adjacent to a retaining wall that has a pool on the opposite side of the retaining wall shall be designed by a registered design professional.



**Summary of Proposed Change:**

The submitter noted this proposal is to provide general protection for structures adjacent to residential pools. The intent is to protect the Owner's property and other's property.

**Committee Commentary:**

The committee reviewed the proposal at the April 15, 2026 meeting. There was discussion that similar requirements already exist within building codes but may not be consistently applied to pool construction. It was noted that incorporating this requirement into the pool code would improve enforcement and awareness among pool builders. Discussion included reference to retaining wall requirements, including thresholds of 4 ft measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall and requiring an engineered design. The committee discussed consistency with building code provisions and agreed that including such requirements would enhance protection of adjacent structures.

The RSPSTC reviewed and unanimously approved the proposal at the April 16, 2026 meeting following the CSPSTC review. RSPSTC comments can be found on RSPSTC Presentation Slide 47.

**Committee Action Taken:**

Vote of six "for" a motion to approve Proposed Code Change Form RSPSTC-15, with one "abstain". (4/15/2026)



## Code Change Proposal Form: RSPSTC-4 – Adding new Section 311.2 “Existing residential pools and spas alterations and repairs”

**311.2 Existing residential pools and spas alterations and repairs.** Alterations or repairs of existing residential pools and spas shall bring existing pools and spas into compliance with 311.1.

Exceptions:

1 . Portable spas and portable exercise spas listed and labeled in accordance with UL 1563 or CSA C22.2 No. 218.1

2. Suction entrapment avoidance for wading pools shall be provided in accordance with Section 405.

### **Summary of Proposed Change:**

The submitter noted the section has been created to mandate alteration and repairs to existing residential pools and spas include work to comply with Section 311 “Suction Entrapment Avoidance.” The intent is to bring existing residential pools and spas into compliance the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Safety Act enhancing the life safety protections.

### **Committee Commentary:**

This proposal was reviewed at the January 15, 2026 meeting. There was discussion that the proposed language required that alterations and repairs bring existing residential pools and spas into compliance with Section 311.1, which covers suction entrapment protection. The committee discussed cost considerations, noting that resurfacing projects typically costs thousands of dollars, and that compliance with suction entrapment requirements was a relatively minor additional cost in the overall project budget.



**Committee Commentary continued:**

Acceptable compliance methods were discussed, including split suction outlets, channel drains, vacuum release systems, and compliant drain covers. It was noted that compliance methods would be determined based on existing pool construction and hydraulic configuration. The RSPSTC voted to approve Proposed Code Change Form RSPSTC-4 as presented. (1/15/2026)

The CSPSTC committee reviewed the code change proposal at the April 15, 2026 meeting. The committee discussed the life safety benefits and noted that many existing pools do not meet current standards. Concerns were raised about scope, particularly whether minor repairs like pump or motor replacement would trigger full upgrades, and the potential cost impacts to homeowners, including drain modifications or removal of equalizer lines. It was also noted that broad application could discourage permitted repairs and lead to noncompliant work. Limiting the requirement to suction system work was discussed, and the proposal was tabled for further refinement.

The ad hoc committee reviewed the proposal at the April 29, 2026 meeting. The committee agreed that proposed changes to Section 311.2 requiring existing residential pools and spas undergoing alterations or repairs to comply with ANSI/APSP-7 suction entrapment requirements were acceptable, while related resurfacing and pool surface definition changes in Chapter 2 would instead be withdrawn.

**Committee Action Taken:**

## Code Change Proposal Form: CSPSTC-3 – Amending Section 314.4 “Location”

**314.4 Location.** Pumps and motors shall be provided with access for inspection and service in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications. or a clear space not less than 18 inches, whichever is greater.

### Summary of Proposed Change:

The submitter noted that this change establishes a minimum pump clearance that already falls into current accepted range. The change raises the minimum pump clearance allowed by some manufacturers from 12 inches to 18 inches and will allow a safer more readily accessible work space for pump maintenance and repair.

### Committee Commentary:

The CSPSTC committee reviewed the proposal at the February 18, 2026 meeting. 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. Unanimous vote to approve Code Change Proposal Form CSPSTC-3. (2/18/2026)



### **Committee Commentary continued:**

The RSPSTC reviewed the proposal at the April 16, 2026 meeting. Concerns were raised regarding feasibility for residential installations and existing structures, particularly with space limitations and equipment configurations. Options including exceptions for residential pools or separate commercial requirements were considered. It was determined that additional language development was necessary before approval.

The ad hoc committee discussed the proposal at the April 29, 2026 meeting. Concerns were raised that the requirement could unnecessarily restrict residential equipment layouts and duplicate existing manufacturer specifications, electrical workspace requirements, and combustible clearance provisions already found elsewhere in the code. The committee discussed limiting the proposal to public pools under a new Section 314.4.1, but ultimately agreed the amendment might be unnecessary and recommended the commercial committee consider withdrawing the proposal.

### **Committee Action Taken:**



## Code Change Proposal Form: RSPSTC-5 – Amending Section 325.1 “General”

**325.1 General.** The provisions of this section apply to public and residential pools and spas and aquatic recreation facilities that utilize equipment rooms.

### Summary of Proposed Change:

The submitter noted that equipment rooms can create a danger to health and safety of inhabitants. The chemical laden air and water can alter air quality, chlorine or salt water will damage electrical wiring with corrosion that could damage connections and create sparks, and chlorine and salt water will cause wood construction to prematurely deteriorate.

### Committee Commentary:

The RSPSTC originally reviewed the proposal at the February 19, 2026 meeting. The committee clarified that residential pools were not required to have equipment rooms; however, when equipment rooms were voluntarily installed by homeowners, the applicable code provisions would apply to ensure proper ventilation, corrosion protection, and electrical safety for enclosed equipment installations. Unanimous vote to approve Proposed Code Change Form RSPSTC-5. (2/19/2026)

The CSPSTC committee reviewed the proposal at the April 15, 2026 meeting. The committee discussed that many residential installations include equipment rooms with ventilation, chemical storage, and mechanical systems similar to public pools, and that excluding residential installations could create safety gaps. It was agreed that applying these requirements to residential pools utilizing equipment would improve consistency and safety.

### Committee Action Taken:

Unanimous vote to approve Code Change Proposal Form RSPSTC-7. (4/15/2026)



## Code Change Proposal Form: CSPSTC-7 – Amending Section 325.10 “Gaseous chlorination space”

**325.10 Gaseous Chlorination space.** Use of compressed chlorine gas shall be prohibited for new construction and after ~~substantial~~ alteration to existing facilities.

### Summary of Proposed Change:

The submitter noted that the proposal removed the word “substantial” in light of the fact that it is rare to find a chlorine gas system for a pool or spa, and to avoid the dangers and life safety hazards of chlorine gas it shall be removed whenever there are alterations to a facility.

### Committee Commentary:

The committee reviewed the proposal at the April 15, 2026 meeting. The committee discussed that the term “substantial” was ambiguous and could lead to inconsistent interpretation and enforcement. It was noted that gaseous chlorine systems were rare in current practice and presented significant life safety risks. Removing the qualifier would simplify enforcement and ensure that any alteration would trigger compliance with the prohibition.

### Committee Action Taken:

Unanimous vote to approve Code Change Proposal Form CSPSTC-7. (4/15/2026)



## Code Change Proposal Form: CSPSTC-8 – Amending 325.2 “Requirements”

**325.2 Requirements.** The equipment area or room floor shall be of concrete or other suitable material having a smooth slip-resistant finish and have positive drainage, including a sump drain pump, if necessary. Floors shall have a slope toward the floor drain or sump drain pump adequate to prevent standing water at all times. The opening to the equipment room or area shall be designed to provide access for all anticipated equipment. At least one hose bibb with backflow preventer shall be located in the equipment room or allow for access within an adequate distance of the equipment room, not more than 50 feet, so that a hose can service the entire room.

### Summary of Proposed Change:

The submitter shared that the proposed change allows the hose bibb to be placed adequately to service the pool area and the equipment room with an appropriately sized hose.

### Committee Commentary:

The committee reviewed this proposal at the May 20, 2026 meeting.

### Committee Action Taken:



## Code Change Proposal Form: CSPSTC-13 – Adding Section 327 “Water Chemistry Standards”

### Section 327 - Water Chemistry Standards.

Public swimming pools and aquatic facilities shall be maintained in accordance with the water chemistry requirements of the current edition of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC), unless otherwise modified by the authority having jurisdiction.

Water quality parameters including, but not limited to, free available chlorine, combined chlorine, pH, cyanuric acid, alkalinity, and calcium hardness shall comply with the operational ranges established by the MAHC.

Testing and corrective actions shall be performed in accordance with the MAHC and manufacturer recommendations for installed treatment systems.

### **Summary of Proposed Change:**

The ISPSC-24 establishes design and construction requirements for aquatic facilities but does not provide numeric operational water chemistry standards for disinfectant residuals and related water balance parameters. This absence creates inconsistency between jurisdictions and allows varying enforcement thresholds that may not align with nationally recognized aquatic health guidance.

Adoption of the CDC Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) provides a nationally recognized, science-based framework for operational water chemistry standards and promotes consistency for aquatic operators, designers, contractors, and enforcement agencies throughout Oklahoma.



This proposal improves clarity for enforcement and operation of public aquatic facilities while supporting public health and safety through standardized water chemistry management practices.

**Committee Commentary:**

The committee reviewed the proposal at the May 20, 2026 meeting.

**Committee Action Taken:**

