



Assuring Public Health and Safety in the Aquatic World through Building Science

Now in its third edition, the ISPSC meets or exceeds the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act's federal requirements.

The ISPSC is coordinated with Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP) standards and works in regulatory harmony with the easy-to-reference family of International Codes for constructing residential and commercial buildings, America's largest and most commonly adopted building and safety codes. It covers all design and construction aspects of public and residential pools and spas, including water quality safety, barriers, entrapment prevention, materials, finishes, dimensions and slopes, exits and entries, circulation, sanitation, signage and depth markers and energy efficiency. It also covers ancillary components such as suction fittings, filters, pumps, motors, heaters, diving equipment, ladders and steps.

Why is the ISPSC needed now?

There are significant advantages to using a nationally promulgated code, such as the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC).

There is no other Code or Standard that addresses all design and construction aspects of residential and public pools and spas. While most states and local jurisdictions have some form of an existing public pool code, most lack a comprehensive code or laws that address the design, construction and safety of residential pools, which is where most pool related injuries occur.

Many jurisdictions lack even barrier or suction-fitting requirements in residential pools. Some jurisdictions are unaware that a comprehensive swimming pool and spa code exists, despite significant advantages to state and local jurisdictions:

- The ISPSC is developed and correlated with the family of International Codes making life easier for regulators, designers and contractors who use the International Codes every day.
- ISPSC-approved pools and spas are designed to reduce child drowning or near drowning incidents by introducing or enhancing existing barrier requirements, compliant designs and slopes and compliant exits and entries in residential pools and spas. ISPSC compliance ensures pools and in-ground spas are constructed with proper materials.
- Entrapment incidents are eliminated by requiring compliance with the provisions in the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act and the ANSI/APSP/ICC 7-1.3 Entrapment Avoidance Standard.
- Electrical incidents in and around pools and spas are eliminated by requiring compliance with the National Electric Code.
- ISPSC compliance reduces both energy and water consumption in pools and spas.
- ISPSC adoption and enforcement help bring states into compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act.

Who uses the ISPSC now?

The ISPSC is in its third three-year edition and is the required state code in Georgia, Louisiana (effective 07/01/19), Massachusetts (effective 01/02/18), Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire (effective 01/02/18), New Jersey, Virginia, Washington, Washington, D.C. and West Virginia. Many other states are home to local adoptions of the ISPSC, including Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wyoming.



As various states and local jurisdictions continue to update to the latest editions of the International Codes, state and local adoptions of the ISPSC will continue to grow.

The Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) is best suited to complement the ISPSC by addressing maintenance and operation of public pools and spas. The MAHC is not a substitute for adoption of the ISPSC because it does not cover all aspects of design and construction of public pools.

How is the ISPSC developed?

The ISPSC is derived from, and fully supported by the ANSI/APSP national consensus standards which have been developed under the essential requirements of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). These standards achieve final determination by a balanced panel of recognized experts including representatives of public health departments, independent testing facilities, the National Safety Council and the US Consumers Product Safety Commission. The ISPSC covers all aspects of design and construction of public (commercial) pools, spas and aquatic recreation facilities by incorporating language

The ICC develops construction and safety codes utilizing the governmental consensus process. This system of code development has provided the citizens of the U.S. one of the highest levels of safety in the world for more than 80 years. The ICC governmental consensus process meets the principles defined by the OMB Circular A-119, Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities (1998), codified by Public Law 104-113 National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995.

The ISPSC extends ICC's vision for America's built environment

When the ICC was established in 1994, the nation's three largest building code organizations responded to the nationwide call for one set of correlated, easy-to-reference building and safety codes. They agreed to better serve the diverse universe of stake holders in the built environment: Federal, state and local governments, engineers, architects, building contractors, plumbers, building owners and managers, building officials and inspectors, fire service personnel, home owners and community developers.

The newly formed Council recognized the need for accreditation services as well as training and certification of building officials, fire officials and contractors. They foresaw the need to develop a world class product evaluation service to make sure the materials and methods used in the built environment meet criteria for safety, integrity and best practices.

Most importantly, they enhanced their unique Governmental Consensus Process which includes the public input of industry, builders, consumers and regulators, but reserves the final say to the governmental public servants who provide building regulation. That's because ICC produces model codes that are adopted as enforceable public policy. ICC members believe those who carry out the public policy should have that final vote when ICC updates its codes every three years.

And today, the ICC is a 63,000-member-driven nonprofit with more than 373 state and regional chapters which has met and exceeded the vision of its three legacy organizations as the world's pre-eminent model code organization. ICC is meeting the needs of a growing, changing America.

The ISPSC and the International Green Construction Code are the newest members of ICC's 15 codes for construction and safety. Together, with ICC's new Solar Certification Services, they speak to the needs of 21st Century communities, as well as the growing need for sustainability in how we build commercial and residential structures.