



INTERNATIONAL  
CODE  
COUNCIL

People Helping People Build a Safer World™

# The 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code®

## *Why It Should Be In Your Future*

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

### FACTS

- The International Code Council (ICC) updates its construction and public safety codes every three years through a governmental consensus process.
- 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.
- The ISPSC is an integral component of the 15 model codes that make up the I-Codes, a complete set of comprehensive, coordinated building safety and fire prevention codes.
- The Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) could easily compliment the ISPSC by addressing maintenance and operation of public pools and spas.
- The MAHC is not a complete substitute for adoption of the ISPSC because it does not cover all aspects of design and construction of public pools.
- 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 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.



- The International Code Council, (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.
- During the 2015-2018 Code Development Cycle, ICC fully implemented the cdpACCESS online code development portal for those interested in participating in the code development process. This new web based tool was built exclusively for ICC's code development process. "CDP" is the abbreviation for "Code Development Process". cdpACCESS was once known as remote voting, but is actually designed to encourage and assist increased public participation in the code development process.

## COST SAVINGS

- The ISPSC has taken a bold step forward in energy conservation by referencing the *ANSI/APSP-14, Standard for Portable Electric Spa Energy Efficiency* and the *ANSI/APSP-15, Standard for Residential Swimming Pool and Spa Energy Efficiency*. These standards meet or exceed all of the requirements of California's Title 24 energy initiatives for pools and portable spas. Energy savings results in lower electric bills.
- The ISPSC contains barrier, decking and light provisions coordinating with the IBC.
- The ISPSC requires portable spas be certified to latest industry standards eliminating the need to inspect inaccessible components. The result is money saved.
- The only comprehensive model swimming pool and spa code available that establishes a fair playing field for the pool industry while adequately protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare. It is important that the provisions in the code don't unnecessarily increase construction cost; do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; and do not give preferential treatment to particular types of classes of materials, products or methods of construction.
- The ISPSC provides Virginia Graeme Baker Act compliance by reference to APSP-7.
- The ISPSC is available in print and electronic form. There is also a free online view only version.
- As a result of the development of the ISPSC, we now have one document that is placed in the hands of code officials, design professionals, contractors, home owners, building owners, manufactures and other pool and industry representatives that addresses the entire built environment of a pool, spa, and aquatic facility. This will expedite and simplify the construction of pool, spas, and aquatic facilities resulting in cost savings.
- Accessibility within public pools and spas are correlated with the International Building Code which assist the designer.
- The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA) and its member organizations support the adoption of the latest edition of the ISPSC.

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