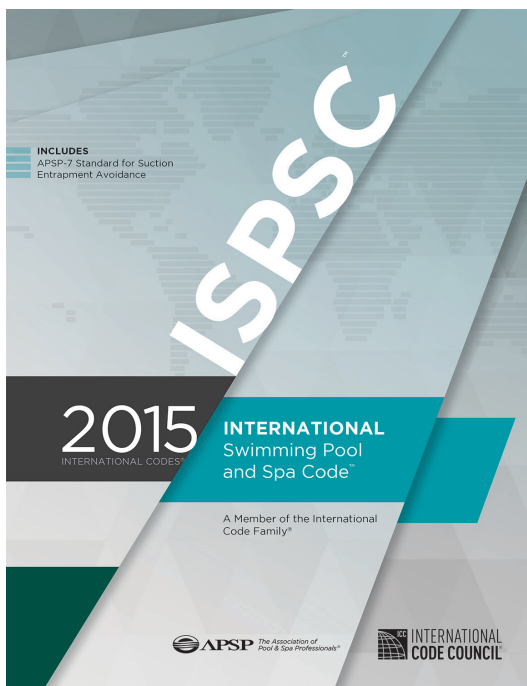
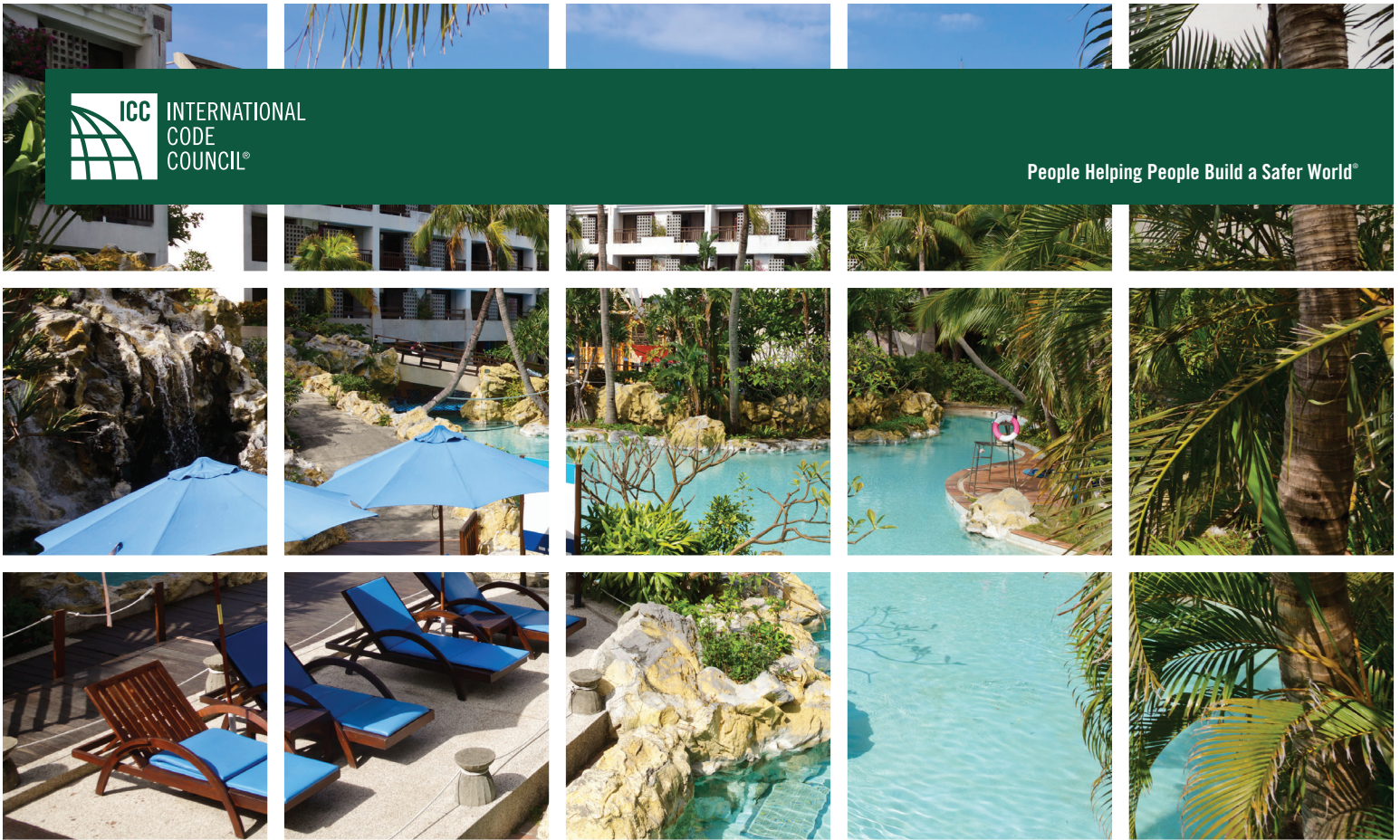




INTERNATIONAL  
CODE  
COUNCIL®

People Helping People Build a Safer World®



# INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING POOL AND SPA CODE (ISPSC)

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

March 24, 2016

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

Now in its second edition, the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) meets or exceeds the **Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act** requirements and stands as the first and only model residential and public swimming pool and spa code available.

The ISPSC is coordinated with APSP standards and works in regulatory harmony with the easy-to-reference family of International Codes for constructing commercial buildings and residences, America's largest and most commonly adopted building and safety codes. It covers all aspects of construction and design, including water parks, water quality safety, barriers, entrapment prevention, materials, finishes, dimensions and slopes, exits and entries, circulation, sanitization, 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 is no other Code or Standard that addresses all aspects of residential and public pool and spa construction and design. While most states and local jurisdictions have some form of 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 a barrier or suction-fitting requirement in residential pools. Some jurisdictions are unaware that a comprehensive swimming pool and spa code exists, despite the advantages to state and local jurisdictions:

- The ISPSC arrives nationally-correlated with the family of International Codes makes 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 entry in residential pools and spas. ISPSC compliance ensures pools and in-ground spas are built 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-7 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 adoptions bring states into compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act, as well as help them qualify for grants under the Act.

## Who uses the ISPSC now?

The ISPSC is in its second three-year edition and already is the required state code in Montana, New Jersey, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Many other states are home to local adoptions of the ISPSC, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wyoming.

As various states and local jurisdictions update to the 2012 and 2015 International Codes, we expect to see the number of state and local jurisdictions to grow. State and local jurisdictions adopting the ISPSC for the first time are eligible for Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) yearly training money.

Additionally, the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) can easily 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 residential pools and spas, nor does it cover all aspects of design and construction of public pools.)

## How is the ISPSC developed?

The ISPSC is developed and updated through the International Code Council's Government Consensus Process. It requires full and fair public consideration of all comments and submissions, first by a balanced panel of recognized experts, and secondly, a final determination by the building code officials who have daily hands-on experience, and who comprise the ICC membership.

The ISPSC is derived from and fully supported by the ANSI/APSP national consensus standards, which have been developed under the due process requirements of the American National Standards Institute, which achieves 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 Consumer Product Safety Commission. The ISPSC covers all aspects of design and construction of public (commercial) pools, spas and aquatic recreation facilities by incorporating language from the APSP-1, APSP-2, and APSP-9 Standards and incorporating best practices from locally-adopted codes.

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

When the International Code Council (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 merged to 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.

They foresaw 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 met criteria for safety, integrity and best practices.

Most importantly, they developed their unique Governmental Consensus Process which includes the public input of industry, builders, consumers and regulators, but leaves the final say to the governmental public servants who provide building regulation. That's because ICC produces model codes that get adopted as current public policy. We 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 58,000-member-driven nonprofit with more than 360 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. We are 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century communities, as well as the growing need for sustainability in how we build commercial and residential structures.



# ISPSC Adoption Status Report

(Revised 3-01-2016)

The ISPSC adoptions listed below are 2012. Exceptions, indicated by \*, are 2015 ISPSC adoptions.

## Mandatory State Adoptions | Effective Statewide

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Montana\* | New Jersey\* | Virginia | Washington, D.C.

## States with Optional Adoption

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Arizona | California | Colorado | Georgia | Illinois | South Carolina | Tennessee | Texas | Wyoming

## Local Adoptions - 50

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### ARIZONA

- Camp Verde
- City of Goodyear
- Fountain Hills
- Yavapai County

### CALIFORNIA

- Alhambra
- Huntington Park
- La Habra
- Laguna Hills
- Laguna Niguel
- Los Alamitos
- Mission Viejo
- Monterey Park
- San Manuel Indian Reservation  
*(in San Bernardino County)*
- Seal Beach
- Temple City
- Westminster

### COLORADO

- Castle Rock
- Parker
- Thornton

### DELAWARE

- New Castle County\*

### GEORGIA

- Chatham County
- City of McDonough
- City of St. Marys
- McDuffie County
- Town of Thunderbolt

### ILLINOIS

- Lake Bluff

### KANSAS

- DeSoto
- Gardner
- Olathe

### LOUISIANA

- Covington

### MARYLAND

- Anne Arundel County
- Montgomery County\*

### MISSISSIPPI

- Diamond Head

### MISSOURI

- Sikeston
- University City

### NEVADA

- Boulder City
- Clark County
- Henderson
- North Las Vegas
- Sparks
- Washoe County

### TENNESSEE

- Hendersonville
- Mount Juliet
- Roane County

### TEXAS

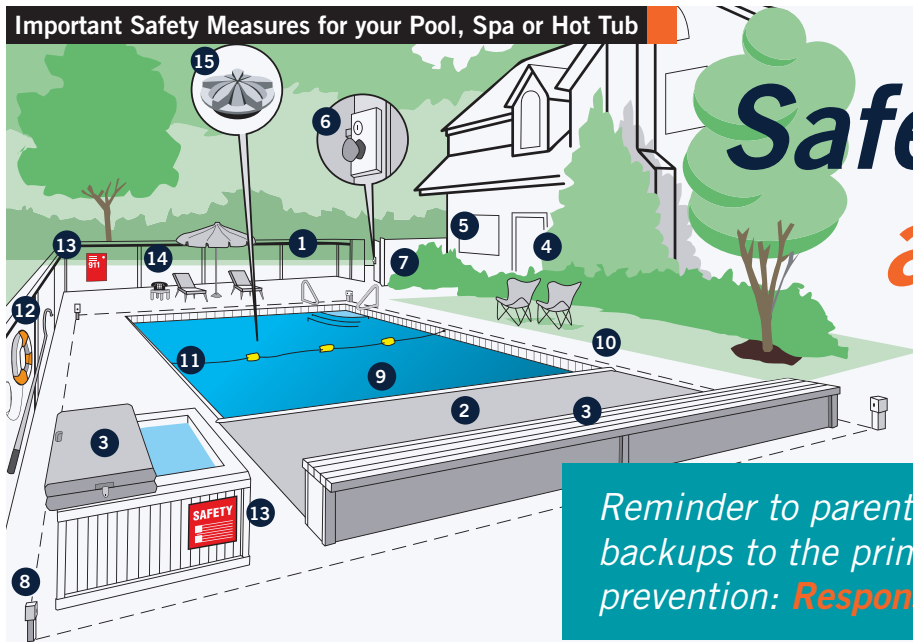
- Amarillo\*
- Canyon
- Saginaw
- Wylie

### WASHINGTON

- Lynnwood

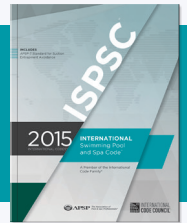
### WYOMING

- Rawlins



# Safe Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs Save Lives

Reminder to parents that these “layers” are backups to the primary means of accident prevention: **Responsible Adult Supervision**



## 1. Barrier Requirements (fencing)

**Purpose:** To isolate the swimming pool by way of a minimum four foot high enclosure.  
**Types:** a. Chain link; b. Wooden picket (if non climbable); c. Ornamental; d. Portable fencing; e. Natural Barrier (edge of lake or other natural body of water); f. Natural topography (mountains or natural rock formations), if permitted by local codes.

## 2. Automatic Power Safety Cover

**Purpose:** A pool cover that is placed over the water area, and is opened and closed with a motorized mechanism activated by a control switch.  
**Types:** Shall be listed and labelled in accordance with ASTM F1346.

## 3. Manual Safety Covers

**Purpose:** An impenetrable covering that completely covers the pool, spa, or hot tub, blocking access to water.  
**Types:** Shall be listed and labelled in accordance with ASTM F1346.

## 4. Door Exit Alarms

**Purpose:** An alarm that produces an audible warning when a child opens a door, screen or window.  
**Types:** The alarm shall be listed and labelled as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017.

## 5. Self-Closing/Self Latching Devices for Doors and Latching Devices for windows

**Purpose:** An approved means of protection, such as, self-closing doors with self-latching devices can be used to comply with Section 305.4 of the 2012 ISPSC, provided that the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by item 3 & 4 above.

**Types:** A latch release mechanism that is not less than 54" (1372mm) above the floor.

## 6. Fence Gate Closer & Latch:

**Purpose:** To close and latch fence gates securely, making a pool, spa, or hot tub inaccessible to a child.

**Types:** Self latching and be located on the vessel side of the gate at least three inches (76mm) below the top of the gate.

## 7. Fence Gate Alarms:

**Purpose:** Produces an audible warning when a fence gate is opened.

## 8. Infrared Detectors:

**Purpose:** Wireless detection alarm that sounds when the area around the pool perimeter is entered.  
**Type:** a. Light-beam b. Body energy.

## 9. Pool Alarms:

**Purpose:** An alarm placed in the pool that sounds upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. While the alarm provides an immediate warning, it does not substitute for the fences, door alarms and safety covers required by this code.  
**Type:** a. Surface water (wave motion); b. Pressure wave (acoustic); c. Electronic monitoring system.

## 10. Child Alarms:

**Purpose:** An alarm clipped on the child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water.  
**Types:** Clip on transmitter with a in-home receiver.

## 11. Rope & Float Line

A rope & float line should be placed across the pool, alerting swimmers to the separation of the deep end from the shallow end of the pool. See Section 811.1 of the 2015 ISPSC for specific details.

## 12. Life Ring, Shepard's Hook

Always keep basic lifesaving equipment by the pool and know how to use it. These can be used to pull someone in trouble to safety.

## 13. Posted Emergency Information

Post all CPR, other emergency information and warning signs, as well as the emergency phone number “911”(or other emergency medical service number), near the pool, spa, or hot tub.

## 14. Outside Telephone

Keep a cordless or poolside telephone within easy reach of the pool area for emergency calls. It also means parents don't have to leave children unattended while they answer the phone.

## 15. Anti-Entrapment Drain Covers and Fittings

All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or grate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked with “VGB 2008” indicating compliance with ANSI/APSP-16 2011. A cover protects people from entrapment, including suction. Without the cover, some part of a person's body (especially a limb) may be trapped, causing injury or drowning. If a cover is broken, loose or missing, the pool should be closed immediately until the drain cover is replaced or repaired by a professional. No one should be allowed to play with a drain cover or near a drain.

### Outlet Configuration

Pools and spas with drains should have more than one drain (suction outlet), spaced a minimum of 3 feet apart; one or more un-lockable drains or no main drain.

### Vacuum Release or Vented System

Pools and spas with a single drain, other than an un-blockable outlet must have one of the following: A safety vacuum release system (SVRS); an engineered vent system; a gravity drainage system; or other safety features that comply with consensus standards (ANSI/APSP/ICC 7-2013).

### Pool Cleaner Fittings

Pool and spas with wall vacuum fittings must have self-closing, self-latching covers located at least 6 inches and not greater than 18 inches below the minimum operating water level, or as an attachment to the skimmer.