

# Swimming Pool Requirements

## **SECTION 305 BARRIER REQUIREMENTS**

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### **305.1 General.**

The provisions of this section shall apply to [the design of barriers for restricting entry into areas having pools and spas](#). Where spas or hot tubs are equipped with a lockable safety cover complying with ASTM F1346 and swimming pools are equipped with a powered safety cover that complies with ASTM F1346, the areas where those spas, hot tubs or pools are located shall not be required to comply with [Sections 305.2 through 305.7](#).

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### **305.2 Outdoor swimming pools and spas.**

Outdoor pools and spas and indoor swimming pools shall be surrounded by a barrier that complies with [Sections 305.2.1 through 305.7](#).

#### **305.2.1 Barrier height and clearances.**

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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. 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) where measured on the side of the required barrier that faces away from the pool or spa.
4. 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).

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### **305.2.2 Openings.**

Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.

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### **305.2.3 Solid barrier surfaces.**

Solid barriers that do not have openings shall not contain indentations or protrusions that form handholds and footholds, except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.

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### **305.2.4 Mesh fence as a barrier.**

Mesh fences, other than chain link fences in accordance with [Section 305.2.7](#), shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall comply with the following:

1. 1.The bottom of the mesh fence shall be not more than 1 inch (25 mm) above the deck or installed surface or grade.
2. 2.The maximum vertical clearance from the bottom of the mesh fence and the solid surface shall not permit the fence to be lifted more than 4 inches (102 mm) from grade or decking.
3. 3.The fence shall be designed and constructed so that it does not allow passage of a 4-inch (102 mm) sphere under any mesh panel. The maximum vertical clearance from the bottom of the mesh fence and the solid surface shall be not greater than 4 inches (102 mm) from grade or decking.
4. 4.An attachment device shall attach each barrier section at a height not lower than 45 inches (1143 mm) above grade. Common attachment devices include, but are not limited to, devices that provide the security equal to or greater than that of a hook-and-eye-type latch incorporating a spring-actuated retaining lever such as a safety gate hook.
5. 5.Where a hinged gate is used with a mesh fence, the gate shall comply with [Section 305.3](#).
6. 6.Patio deck sleeves such as vertical post receptacles that are placed inside the patio surface shall be of a nonconductive material.
7. 7.Mesh fences shall not be installed on top of onground *residential* pools.

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### **305.2.5 Closely spaced horizontal members.**

Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches (1143 mm), the horizontal members shall be located on the pool or spa side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches (44 mm) in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches (44 mm) in width.

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### **305.2.6 Widely spaced horizontal members.**

Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches (1143 mm) or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, the interior width of the cutouts shall not exceed 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches (44 mm).

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### **305.2.7 Chain link dimensions.**

The maximum opening formed by a chain link fence shall be not more than 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches (44 mm). Where the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top and bottom that reduce the openings, such openings shall be not greater than 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches (44 mm).

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### **305.2.8 Diagonal members.**

Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be not greater than 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches (44 mm). The angle of diagonal members shall be not greater than 45 degrees (0.79 rad) from vertical.