



Building Safety

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IDENTIFICATION OF SELECTED DROWNING PROTECTION SAFETY FEATURES FOR SWIMMING POOLS, & SPAS AT PRIVATE SINGLE FAMILY HOMES

Swimming pools and spas must meet the requirements of the Swimming Pool Safety Act, California Health and Safety Code, Section 115922 et seq. This handout outlines and requires acknowledgement of the construction and type of safety features that will be provided for new or remodeled swimming pools and spas at private single-family homes.

When a building permit is issued for the construction of a new swimming pool or spa, or the remodeling of an existing swimming pool or spa at a private single family home, it shall be equipped with at least **TWO** of the following seven drowning prevention safety features:

Please identify the construction and type of safety features that will be provided in accordance with requirements of Health and Safety Code 115922 et seq., by checking the appropriate two spaces.

SELECT EITHER TYPE 1A, IB OR TYPE 2 SAFETY FEATURES

1. An enclosure that meets the requirements of Health and Safety Code §115923 (CBC § 3109.4.4.3) and isolates the swimming pool or spa from the private single-family home.
 - A. A permanent barrier, such as a wood fence or wrought iron fence, that completely encompasses the swimming pool.
 - B. The combination of house walls and fencing that provides for a complete barrier around the swimming pool. Exit alarms shall be installed at all doors that provide direct access from the house to the pool as stipulated in Item #4 below. NOTE: An additional safety item must also be selected from Type 3, 5, 6 or 7 below if this barrier method is selected.
2. Removable mesh fencing that meets American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Specification F2286 standards in conjunction with a gate that is self-closing and self-latching and can accommodate a key lockable device.

SELECT ONE ADDITIONAL SAFETY FEATURE (FROM TYPE 3 TO TYPE 7)

3. An approved safety pool cover as defined in Section 3109.4.4.1
4. Exit alarms on the private single family home's doors that provide direct access to the swimming pool or spa. The exit alarm may cause either an alarm noise or a verbal warning, such as a repeating notification that "the door to the pool is open".
5. A self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor on the private single family home's doors providing direct access to the swimming pool or spa.
6. An alarm that, when placed in a swimming pool or spa, will sound upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. The alarm shall meet and be independently certified to the ASTM Standard F2208 "Standard Safety Specification for Residential Pool Alarms," which includes surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser and infrared type alarms. A swimming protection alarm feature designed for individual use, including an alarm attached to a child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water, is not a qualifying drowning prevention safety feature.
7. Other means of protection, if the degree of protection afforded is equal to or greater than that afforded by any of the features set forth above, and has been independently verified by an approved testing laboratory as meeting standards for those features established by the ASTM or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Note: the provision of other means of protection is subject to prior approval by the Building Official on a case by case basis. Sufficient back-up information as described above must be provided to allow determination of approval.

3109.4.4.5 Exempt facilities. The above requirements of this article do not apply to any of the following:

1. Public swimming pools.
2. Hot tubs or spas with locking safety covers that comply with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM F1346).
3. An apartment complex or any residential setting other than a single-family home.

Authority: Health and Safety Code Section 18942(b)

Reference: Health and Safety Code Section 115925

B. Whenever a building permit is issued for the construction a new swimming pool or spa, the pool or spa shall meet **ALL** of the following requirements (CBC 3109.4.4.8)

- 1_____ The suction outlets of the pool or spa for which the permit is issued shall be equipped to provide circulation throughout the pool or spa as prescribed in Paragraphs 2 and 3.
- 2_____ The swimming pool or spa shall either have at least two circulation suction outlets per pump that shall be hydraulically balanced and symmetrically plumbed through one or more "T" fittings, and that are separated by a distance of at least three feet in any dimension between the suction outlets, or be designed to use alternatives to suction outlets including, but not limited to, skimmers or perimeter overflow systems to conduct water to the recirculation pump.
- 3_____ The circulation system shall have the capacity to provide a complete turnover of pool water, as specified in Section 3124B of Chapter 31B of the California Building Standards Code (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations).
- 4_____ Suction outlets shall be covered with anti-entrapment grates, as specified in the ANSI/APSP-16 performance standard or successor standard designated by the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission that cannot be removed except with the use of tools. Slots of openings in the grates or similar protective devices shall be of a shape, area and arrangement that would prevent physical entrapment and would not pose any suction hazard to bathers.
- 5_____ Any backup safety system that an owner of a new swimming pool or spa may choose to install in addition to the requirements set forth in subdivisions (1) through (4) above shall meet the standards as published in the document, "Guidelines for Entrapment Hazards: Making Pools and Spas Safer," Publication Number 363, March 2005, United States Consumer Products Safety Commission.

Per **California Building Code Section 3109.4.4.4, and Health and Safety Code 115922 et seq., agreements to build; notice of provisions**, any person entering into an agreement to build a swimming pool or spa, or to engage in permitted on a pool or spa work covered by this article, at a private single family home, shall give the consumer notice of the requirements of this article.

As the permit applicant for the property located at _____, I certify I have provided this information to the consumer and acknowledge the swimming pool safety requirements identified above must be installed prior to obtaining a pre-plaster inspection.

Applicant's Signature _____ **Date** _____

The following information is a summary of pertinent additional swimming pool and spa safety requirements contained in Chapter 31 of the 2016 California Building Code and the Swimming Pool Safety Act, California Health and Safety Code, Section 11592 et seq.

3109.4.4.1 Definitions. As used in this division, the following terms have the following meanings:

ANSI/APSP PERFORMANCE STANDARD means a standard that is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and published by the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP).

APPROVED SAFETY POOL COVER means a manually or power-operated safety pool cover that meets all of the performance standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), in compliance with Standard F1346-91.

ENCLOSURE means a fence, wall or other barrier that isolates a swimming pool from access to the home.

EXIT ALARMS means devices that make audible, continuous alarm sounds when any door or window that permits access from the residence to the pool area that is without any intervening enclosure, is opened or is left ajar. Exit alarms may be battery operated or may be connected to the electrical wiring of the building.

PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL means a swimming pool operated for the use of the general public with or without charge, or for the use of the members and guests of a private club. Public swimming pool does not include a swimming pool located on the grounds of a private single-family home.

SUCTION OUTLET means a fitting or fixture typically located at the bottom or on the sides of a swimming pool that conducts water to a recirculating pump.

SWIMMING POOL or POOL means any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 18 inches (457 mm) deep. Swimming pool includes in-ground and above-ground structures and includes, but is not limited to, hot tubs, spas, portable spas and non-portable wading pools.

Authority: Health and Safety Code Section 18942(b)
Reference: Health and Safety Code Section 115921

3109.4.4.3 Enclosure; required characteristics. An enclosure shall have all of the following characteristics:

1. Any access gates through the enclosure open away from the swimming pool and are self-closing with a self-latching device placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground.
2. A minimum height of 60 inches.
3. A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of 2 inches
4. Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than 4 inches in diameter.
5. An outside surface free of protrusions, cavities or other physical characteristics that would serve as handholds or footholds that could enable a child below the age of five years to climb over.

Authority: Health and Safety Code Section 18942(b)
Reference: Health and Safety Code Section 115923

3109.4.4.9 Suction outlet upgrade requirements during remodel or modification Whenever a building permit is for the remodel or modification of any existing swimming pool, toddler pool, or spa, the permit shall require that the suction outlet or suction outlets of the existing swimming pool, toddler pool, or spa be upgraded so as to be equipped with anti-entrapment grates, as specified in the ANSI/APSP-16 performance standard or a successor standard designated by the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Authority: Health and Safety Code Section 18942(b)
Reference: Health and Safety Code Section 115928.5