Town of Thomaston

Building Department
c/o Town Hall
158 Main St.
Thomaston, CT 06787

William Boudreau
Building Official
(860) 283-2857

SWIMMING POOL AGREEMENT

PROPERTY OWNER: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

LOCATION OF POOL

STREET: _____

TYPE OF POOL/SIZE

_____ ABOVE GROUND POOL SIZE: _____

_____ INGROUND POOL SIZE: _____

Section Appendix G Swimming Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs

I hereby agree to comply with Appendix G of the 2003 International Residential Code Portion of the 2005 State Building Code concerning pool safety devises, fencing, gates, pool alarms, etc. I hereby agree that the installation of the electrical wiring and equipment such as pumps, filters, lighting, etc. shall conform to Chapter 41 of the 2003 IRC or Article 680 of the 2005 NEC.

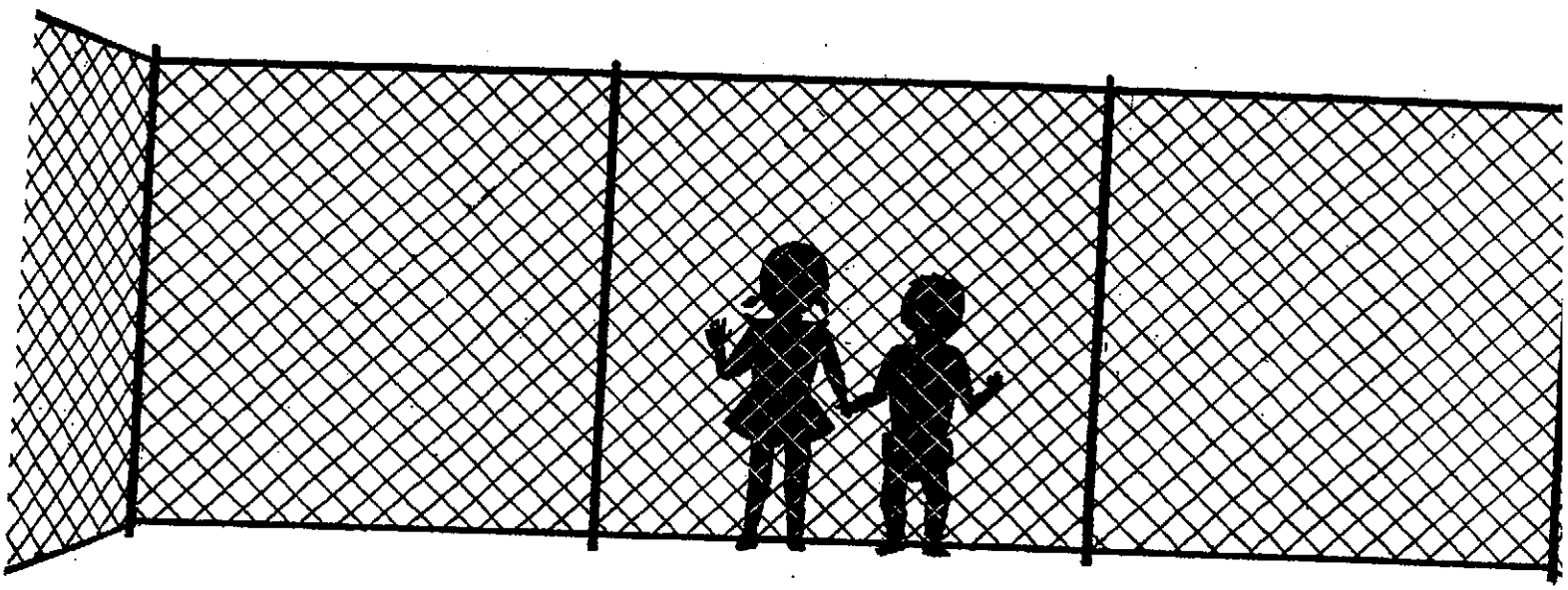
_____ **I have received the safety barrier guidelines handout**
(please check)

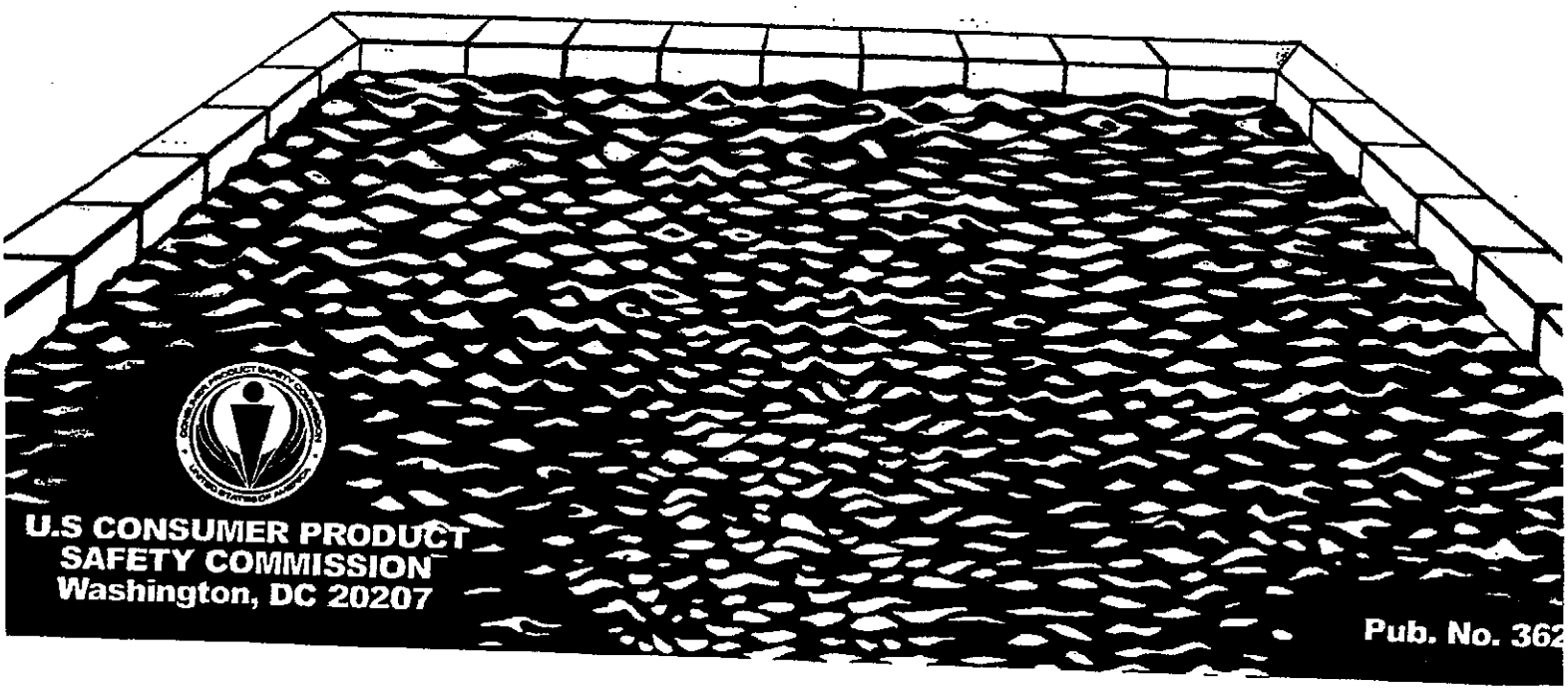
I hereby agree not to use my pool until an approved final inspection has been performed. I understand that it is my responsibility to call for a final inspection as soon as possible.

I, the undersigned, shall install a pool alarm as required by Public Act 99-140, effective October 1, 1999. The alarm must emit a sound of 50 decibels when a 15 pound object enters the water, the alarm must be installed with the pool, and the alarm does not take the place of a barrier or other code requirements - in addition to existing code.

_____
Signature of Owner or Agent

SAFETY BARRIER GUIDELINES FOR HOME POOLS





U.S CONSUMER PRODUCT
SAFETY COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20207

Pub. No. 362

The Swimming Pool Barrier Guidelines

This section explains the CPSC swimming pool barrier guidelines with illustrated descriptions of pool barriers. Definitions of terms used in the guidelines are provided on page 6.

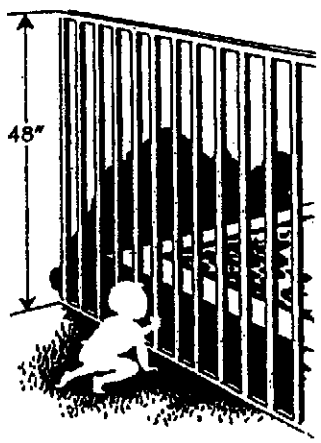
The definition of pool includes spas and hot tubs; the swimming pool barrier guidelines therefore apply to these structures as well as to conventional swimming pools.

A successful pool barrier prevents a child from getting OVER, UNDER, or THROUGH and keeps the child from gaining access to the pool except when supervising adults are present.

How to Prevent a Child from Getting OVER a Pool Barrier

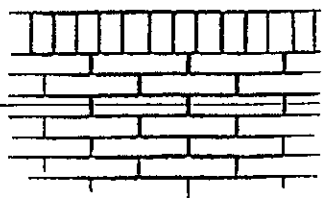
A young child can get over a pool barrier if the barrier is too low or if the barrier has handholds or footholds for a child to use when climbing.

The guidelines recommend that the top of a pool barrier be at least 48 inches above grade, measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool.

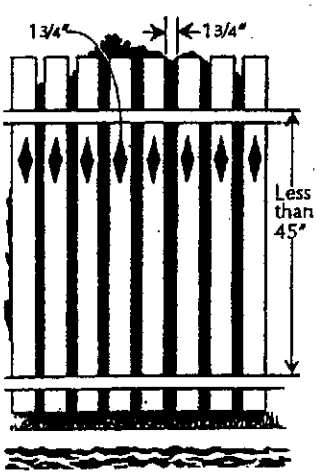


Guidelines recommend eliminating handholds and footholds and minimizing the size of openings in a barrier's construction.

For a Solid Barrier:
No indentations or protrusion should be present, other than normal construction tolerances and masonry joints.



For a Barrier (Fence) Made Up of Horizontal and Vertical Members:
If the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches, the horizontal members should be on the swimming pool side of the fence. The spacing of the vertical members should not exceed 1-3/4 inches. This size is based on the foot width of a young child and is intended to reduce the potential for a child to gain a foothold. If there are any decorative cutouts in the fence, the space within the cutouts should not exceed 1-3/4 inches.



Why the Swimming Pool Guidelines Were Developed

Each year, hundreds of young children die and thousands come close to death due to submersion in residential swimming pools. CPSC has estimated that each year about 300 children under 5 years old drown in swimming pools. The Commission estimates hospital emergency room treatment is required for more than 2,000 children under 5 years of age who were submerged in residential pools.

CPSC did an extensive study of swimming pool accidents, both fatal drownings and near-fatal submersions, in California, Arizona and Florida, states in which home swimming pools are very popular and in use during much of the year. The findings from that study led Commission staff to develop the guidelines in this handbook.

- In California, Arizona and Florida, drowning was the leading cause of accidental death in and around the home for children under the age of 5 years.

- 75 percent of the children involved in swimming pool submersion or drowning accidents were between 1 and 3 years old.

- Boys between 1 and 3 years old were the most likely victims of fatal drownings and near-fatal submersions in residential swimming pools.

- Most of the victims were being supervised by one or both parents when the swimming pool accident occurred.

- Nearly half of the child victims were last seen in the house before the pool accident occurred. In addition, 23 percent of the accident victims were last seen on the porch or patio, or in the yard.

- This means that fully 69 percent of the children who became victims in swimming pool accidents were not expected to be in or at the pool, but were found drowned or submerged in the water.

- 65 percent of the accidents occurred in a pool owned by the victim's immediate family, and 33 percent of the accidents occurred in pools owned by relatives or friends.

- Fewer than 2 percent of the pool accidents were a result of children trespassing on property where they didn't live or belong.

- 77 percent of the swimming pool accident victims had been missing for five minutes or less when they were found in the pool drowned or submerged.

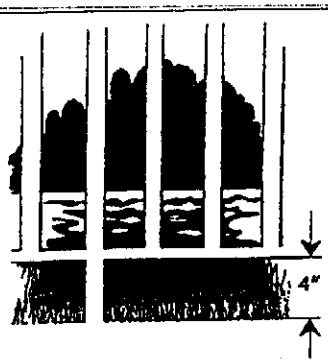
The speed with which swimming pool drownings and submersions can occur is a special concern: by the time a child's absence is noted, the child may have drowned. Anyone who has cared for a toddler knows how fast young children can move. Toddlers are inquisitive and impulsive and lack a realistic sense of danger. These behaviors, coupled with a child's ability to move quickly and unpredictably make swimming pools particularly hazardous for households with young children.

Swimming pool drownings of youn children have another particularly insidious feature: these are silent deaths. It is unlikely that splashing or screaming will occur to alert a parent or caregiver that a child is in trouble.

CPSC staff have reviewed a great deal of data on drownings and child behavior, as well as information on pool and pool barrier construction. The staff concluded that the best way to reduce child drownings in residential pools was for pool owners to construct and maintain barriers that would prevent young children from gaining access to pools. However, there are no substitutes for diligent supervision.

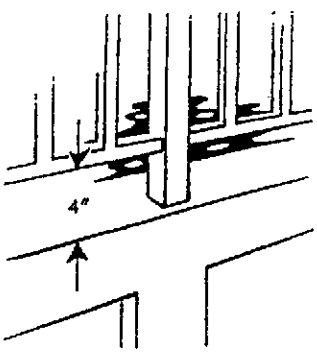
How to Prevent a Child from Getting UNDER a Pool Barrier

For any pool barrier, the maximum clearance at the bottom of the barrier should not exceed 4 inches above grade, when the measurement is done on the side of the barrier facing away from the pool.



Aboveground Pool with Barrier on Top of Pool:

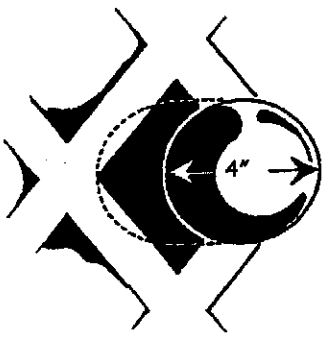
If an aboveground pool has a barrier on the top of the pool, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool and the bottom of the barrier should not exceed 4 inches.



How to Prevent a Child from Getting THROUGH a Pool Barrier

Preventing a child from getting through a pool barrier can be done by restricting the sizes of openings in a barrier and by using self-closing and self-latching gates.

To prevent a young child from getting through a fence or other barrier, all openings should be small enough so that a 4-inch diameter sphere cannot pass through. This size is based on the head breadth and chest depth of a young child.



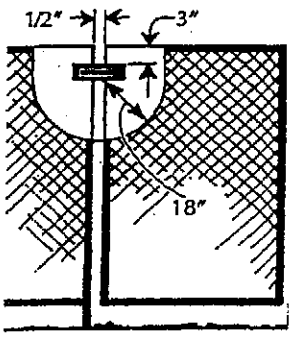
Gates:

There are two kinds of gates which might be found on a residential property. Both can play a part in the design of a swimming pool barrier.

Pedestrian Gates:

These are the gates people walk through. Swimming pool barriers should be equipped with a gate or gates which restrict access to the pool. A locking device should be included in the gate design. Gates should open out from the pool and should be self-closing and self-latching. If a gate is properly designed, even if the gate is not completely latched, a young child pushing on the gate in order to enter the pool area will at least close the gate and may actually engage the latch.

When the release me nism of the self-latching device is less than 54 incl from the bottom of the ga the release mechanism fo gate should be at least 3 i below the top of the gate the side facing the pool. Placing the release mecha at this height prevents a y child from reaching over t top of a gate and releasing latch.

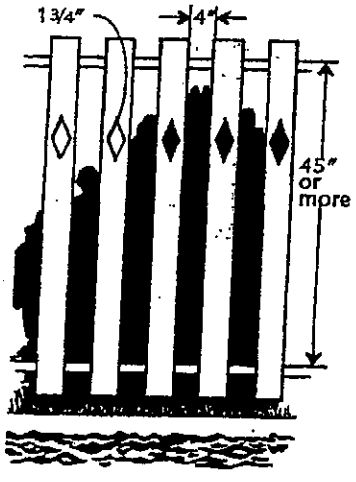


Also, the gate and bar should have no opening greater than 1/2 inch withi 18 inches of the latch relea mechanism. This prevents young child from reaching through the gate and releas the latch.

All Other Gates (Vehicle Entrances, Etc.):

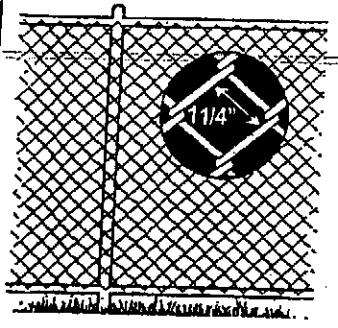
Other gates should be equipped with self-latching devices. The self-latching devices should be installed described for pedestrian ga

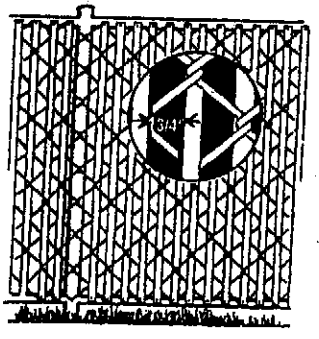
If the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is **more** than 45 inches, the horizontal members can be on the side of the fence facing away from the pool. The spacing between vertical members should not exceed 4 inches. This size is based on the head breadth and chest depth of a young child and is intended to prevent a child from passing through an opening. Again, if there are any decorative cutouts in the fence, the space within the cutouts should not exceed 1-3/4 inches.



For a Chain Link Fence:

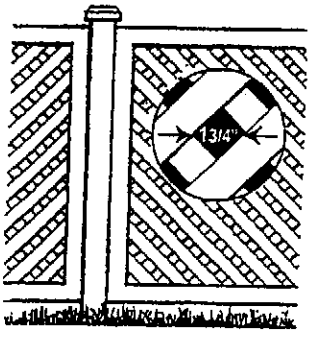
The mesh size should not exceed 1-1/4 inches square unless slats, fastened at the top or bottom of the fence, are used to reduce mesh openings to no more than 1-3/4 inches.



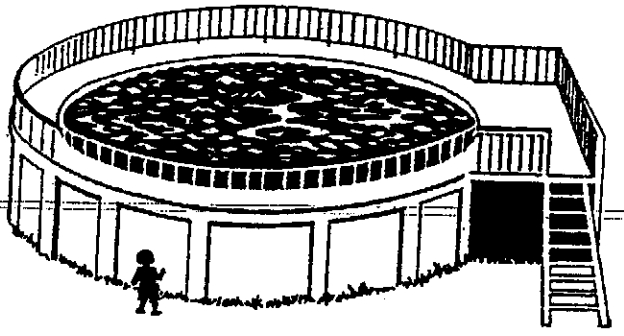


For a Fence Made Up of Diagonal Members (Latticework):

The maximum opening in the lattice should not exceed 1-3/4 inches.



For Aboveground Pools:

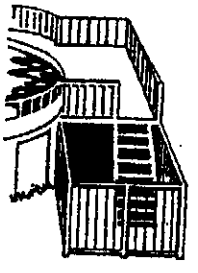


incorrect

Aboveground pools should have barriers. The pool structure itself serves as a barrier or a barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure.

to prevent young children from climbing up into an aboveground pool

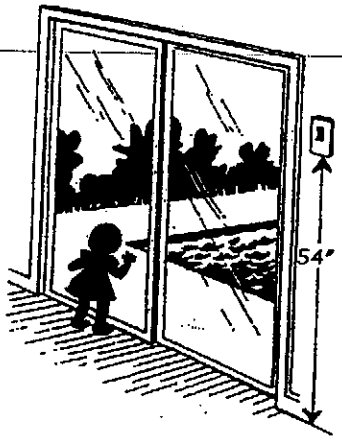
the steps or ladder can be surrounded by a barrier such as those described above.



Correct

When the House Wall Forms Part of the Pool Barrier:

In many homes, doors open directly onto the pool area or onto a patio which leads to the pool.



In such cases, the wall of the house is an important part of the pool barrier, and passage through any doors in the house wall should be controlled by security measures. The importance of controlling a young child's movement from house to pool is demonstrated by the statistics obtained during CPSC's study of pool incidents in California, Arizona and Florida: almost half (46 percent) of the children who became victims of pool accidents were last seen in the house just before they were found in the pool.

All doors which give access to a swimming pool should be equipped with an audible alarm which sounds when the door and/or screen are opened. The alarm should sound for 30 seconds or more **within** 7 seconds after the door is opened. *Alarms should meet the requirements of UL 2017 General-Purpose Signaling Devices and Systems, Section 77.*

The alarm should be loud: at least 85 dBA (decibels) when measured 10 feet away from the alarm mechanism. The alarm sound should be distinct from other sounds in the house, such as the telephone, doorbell and smoke alarm. The alarm should have an automatic reset feature.

Because adults will want to pass through house doors in the pool barrier without setting off the alarm, the alarm should have a switch that allows adults to temporarily deactivate the alarm for up to 15 seconds. The deactivation switch could be a touchpad (keypad) or a manual switch, and should be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door covered by the alarm. This height was selected based on the reaching ability of young children.

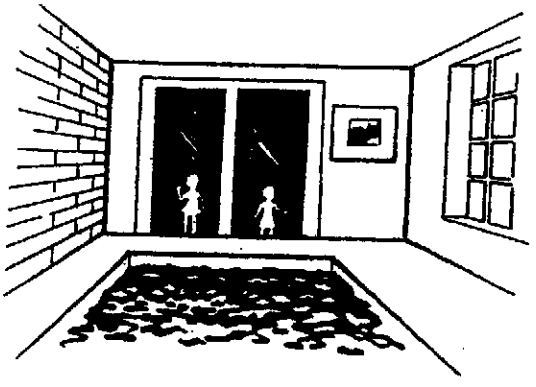
Power safety covers can be installed on pools to serve as security barriers. Power safety covers should conform to the specifications in ASTM F 1346-91. This standard specifies safety performance requirements for pool covers to protect young children from drowning.

If you wish further information on this standard, contact ASTM, Inc., Philadelphia, Pa. (formerly the American Society for Testing & Materials), directly.

Self-closing doors with self-latching devices could also be used to safeguard doors which give ready access to a swimming pool.

Indoor Pools:

When a pool is located completely within a house, the walls that surround the pool should be equipped to serve as pool safety barriers. Measures recommended above where a house wall serves as part of a safety barrier also apply for all the walls surrounding an indoor pool.



Barriers for Residential Swimming Pool, Spas, and Hot Tubs

The preceding explanations of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's pool barrier guidelines were provided in order to make it easier for pool owners, purchasers, builders, technicians and others to understand and apply the guidelines themselves. Detailed guidelines follow. Reading the following guidelines in conjunction with the diagrams previously provided may be especially helpful. For further information, consult your local building department or code authority.

Application

The guidelines presented in this document are intended to provide a means of protection against potential drownings and near-drownings to children under 5 years of age by restricting access to residential swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs.

Definitions

Aboveground/onground pool. See definition of swimming pool.

Barrier. A fence, a wall, a building wall or a combination thereof which completely surrounds the swimming pool and obstructs access to the swimming pool.

Hot tub. See definition of swimming pool.

Inground pool. See definition of swimming pool.

Residential. That which is situated on the premises of a detached one- or two-family dwelling or a one-family townhouse not more than three stories in height.

Spa, nonportable. See definition of swimming pool.

Spa, portable. A non-permanent structure intended for recreational bathing, in which all controls, water- heating, and water-circulating equipment are an integral part of the product and which is cord-connected (not permanently electrically wired).

Swimming pool. Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches deep. This includes inground, aboveground, and onground swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas.

Swimming pool, indoor. A swimming pool which is totally contained within a structure and surrounded on all four side by walls of said structure.

Swimming pool, outdoor. Any swimming pool which is not an indoor pool.

Guidelines

Section I. Outdoor Swimming Pool

An outdoor swimming pool, including ar inground, aboveground, or onground poo hot tub, or spa, should be provided with a barrier which complies with the following:

1. The top of the barrier should be at leas 48 inches above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier should be 4 inches measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an aboveground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure, or mounted on top of the pool structure. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier should be 4 inches.

2. Openings in the barrier should not allow passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.

3. Solid barriers, which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, should not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.

4. 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, the horizontal members should be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members should not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width. Where there are decorative cutouts, spacing within the cutouts should not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width.

5. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches or more, spacing between vertical members should not exceed 4 inches. Where there are decorative cutouts, spacing within the cutouts should not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width.

6. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences should not exceed 1-3/4 inch square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to no more than 1-3/4 inches.

7. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members should be no more than 1-3/4 inches.

8. Access gates to the pool should comply with Section I, Paragraphs 1 through 7, and should be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates should open outward, away from the pool, and should be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates should have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, (a) the release mechanism should be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate and (b) the gate and barrier should have no opening greater than 1/2 inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.

9. Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following should apply:

(a) All doors with direct access to the pool through that wall should be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm should sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds **within** 7 seconds after the door is opened. *Alarms should meet the requirements of UL 2017 General-Purpose Signaling Devices and Systems, Section 77.* The alarm should have a minimum sound pressure rating of 85 dBA at 10 feet and the sound of the alarm should be distinctive from other household sounds, such as smoke alarms, telephones, and door bells. The alarm should automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm should be equipped with manual means, such as touchpads or switches, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening of the door from either direction. Such deactivation should last for no more than 15 seconds. The deactivation touchpads or switches should be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door.

(b) The pool should be equipped with a power safety cover which complies with ASTM F1346-91 listed below.

(c) Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, are acceptable so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by (a) or (b) described above.

10. Where an aboveground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, a the means of access is a ladder or steps then (a) the ladder to the pool or steps should be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access, or (b) the ladder or steps should be surrou ed by a barrier which meets Section I, Paragraphs 1 through 9. When the ladde or steps are secured, locked, or removed any opening created should not allow th passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.

Section II. Indoor Swimming Pool.

All walls surrounding an indoor swimming pool should comply with Section I, Paragraph 9.

Section III. Barrier Locations.

Barriers should be located so as to prohib it permanent structures, equipment or sim ilar objects from being used to climb the barriers.

Exemptions

A portable spa with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F1346-91 listed below should be exempt from the guidelines presented in this document. But, swimming pools, hot tubs, and non-portable spas with safety covers should **not** be exempt from the provisions of this document.

ASTM F1346-91. Standard Performance Specification for Safety Covers and Labeling Requirements for All Covers for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs.

2003 IRC

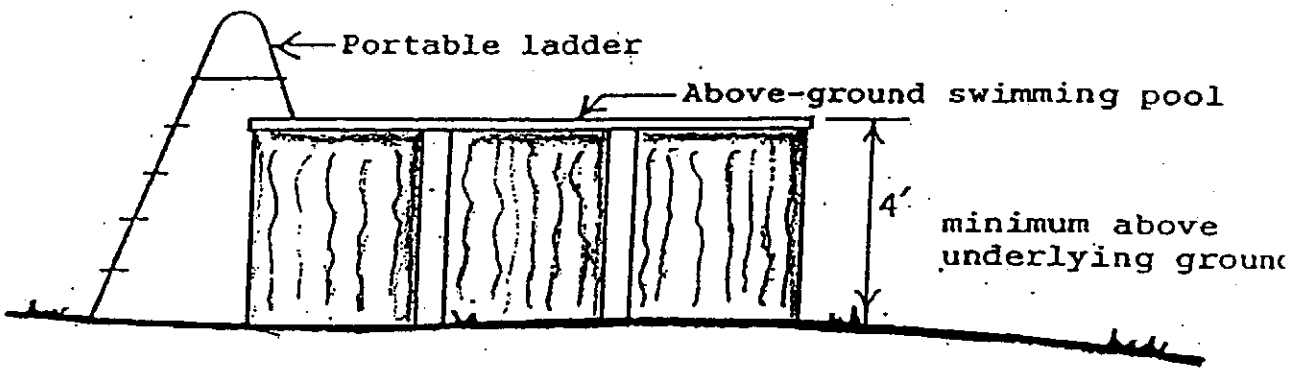
(Add) ***AG105.6 Temporary enclosure.*** *A temporary enclosure shall be installed prior to the commencement of the installation of any in-ground swimming pool unless the permanent barrier specified in Section AG105.2 is in place prior to the commencement of the installation. The temporary enclosure shall be a minimum of 4 feet in height, shall have no openings that will allow passage of a 4-inch sphere and shall be equipped with a positive latching device on any openings.*

(Add) ***AG105.7 Pool alarm.*** *No building permit shall be issued for the construction or substantial alteration of a swimming pool at a residence occupied by, or being built for, one or more families unless a pool alarm is installed with the swimming pool. As used in this section, "pool alarm" means a device which emits a sound of at least 50 decibels when a person or an object weighing 15 pounds or more enters the water in a swimming pool.*

Exception: *Hot tubs and portable spas shall be exempt from this requirement.*

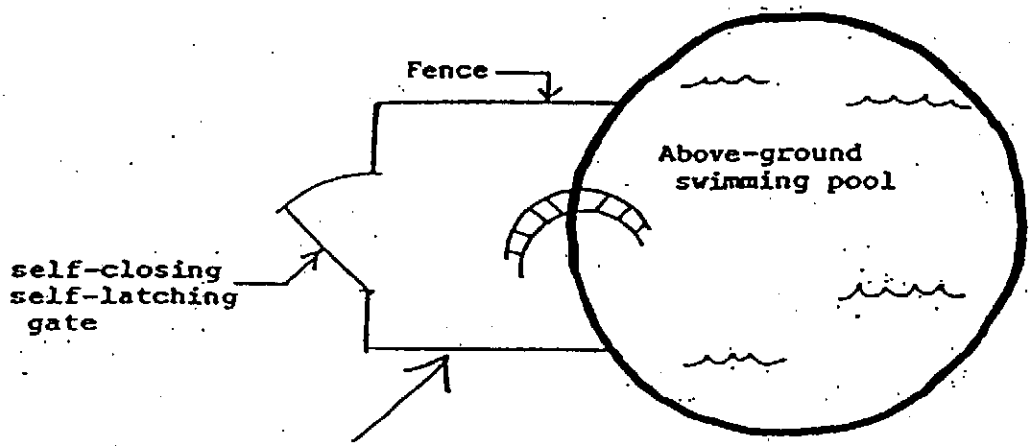
SUB-SECTION 421.10.1, ITEM #10

A removable ladder **shall not** constitute an acceptable alternative to enclosure requirements !!!



ELEVATION

SUB-SECTION 421.10.1, ITEM #10



Barrier shall comply w/ items 1 through 9

SITE PLAN

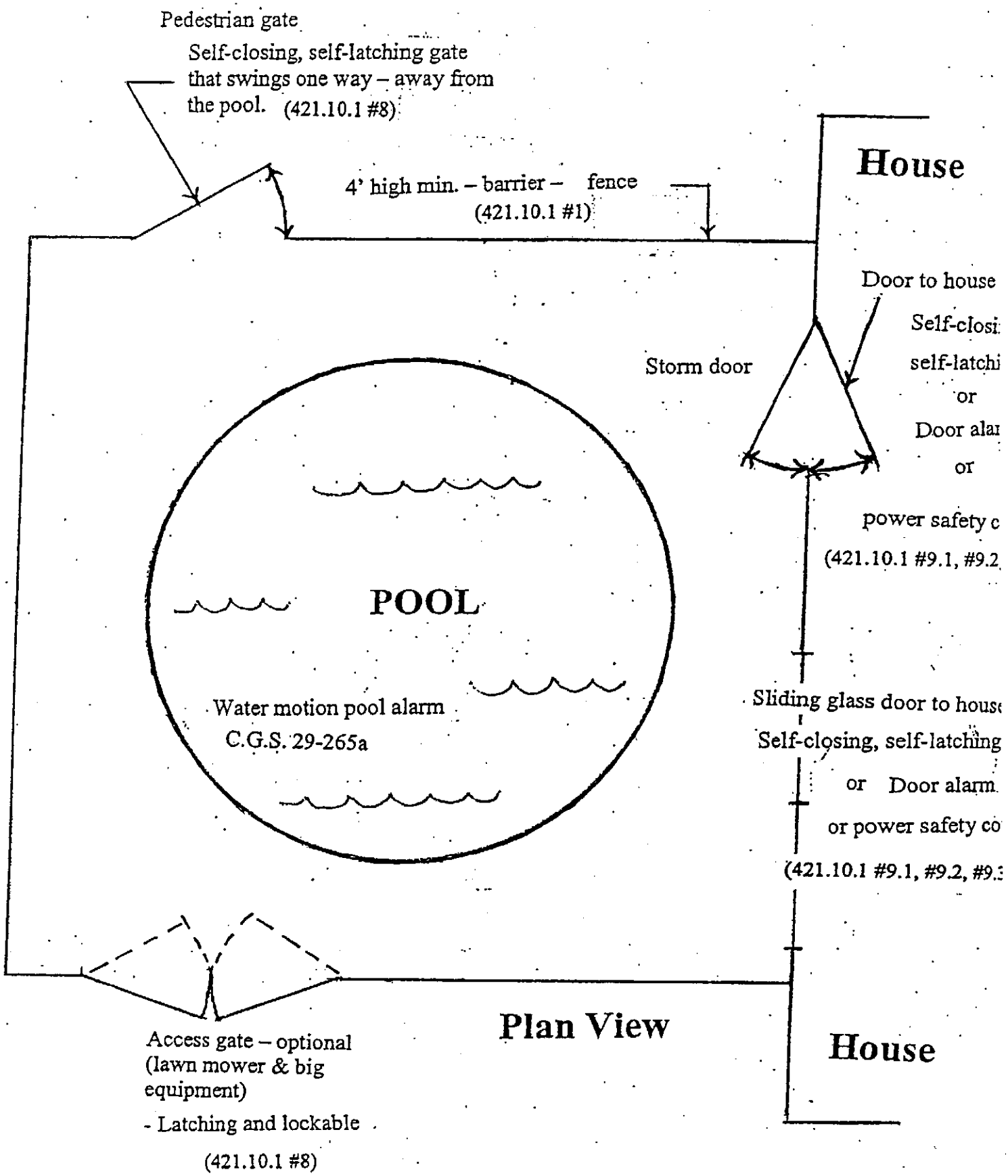
MODEL ENERGY CODE ISSUES

POOL PUMP TIMERS – All swimming pool pump motors ***shall*** be equipped with time clocks allowing the pump to be run in the off-peak electric demand period. (504.5.3 and 604.1.2.3)

POOL HEATERS – All pool heaters ***shall*** be equipped with an ON-OFF switch mounted for easy access to allow shutting the heater off without adjusting the thermostat setting and to allow restarting without relighting the pilot light. (504.5.1 and 604.1.2.3)

HEATED SWIMMING POOLS – All heated pools ***shall*** be equipped with a pool cover. Exception: heated outdoor pools deriving over 20% of the energy for heating over the operating season from renewable sources are exempt. (504.5.2 and 604.1.2.3)

ACTIVE SOLAR HEATING – ***Shall*** be used to supply a portion of pool heating requirements when conditions permit their cost-effective installation. (604.1.2.3 – Design by acceptable practice only)



* NOTE: PER 421.10.2, THE REQUIREMENTS OF 421.10.1, ITEM #9 ALSO APPLY TO INDOOR POOLS.

Substitute House Bill No. 5070

Public Act No. 99-140

An Act Concerning Alarms for New Swimming Pools.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

(NEW) (a) As used in this section, "pool alarm" means a device which emits a sound of at least fifty decibels when a person or an object weighing fifteen pounds or more enters the water in a swimming pool.

(b) No building permit shall be issued for the construction or substantial alteration of a swimming pool at a residence occupied by, or being built for, one or more families unless a pool alarm is installed with the swimming pool.

Approved June 8, 1999. Effective October 1, 1999.

DESPP DIVISIONS:

Commission on Fire Prevention and Control

Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Statewide Emergency Telecommunications

Police Officer Standards and Training Council

Scientific Services

State Police

Early Release-Late Openings

Connecticut still revolutionary

RECOVERY INFORMATION

If You See Something Suspicious, Say Something 1-866-HLS-TIPS

NTAS NO ACTIVE ALERTS www.DHS.gov/alerts

FLAG STATUS US FULL ★ CT FULL

January 2011 Calendar

VETERANS ct.gov

CT Alert WE CAN'T ALERT YOU IF WE CAN'T REACH YOU

CBRC CLIC

2006

Portable Swimming Pools - A Message from the State Building Inspector

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Department of Public Safety
1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Contact:
860-685-8230
pio.dps@po.state.ct.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORTABLE SWIMMING POOLS AND THE STATE BUILDING CODE

Now that the summer months are upon us, we're all trying to find a way to beat the heat. With the cost of energy these days, a reasonable solution seems to be a portable swimming pool for the kids to splash around in. A variety of retail establishments sell portable pools these days and they seem to be a cheap solution to providing comfort and recreation. Problem is, if the pool is capable of holding more than 24 inches of water, the State Building Code requires a permit and a code-compliant barrier around the pool. Since very few retail establishments advertise this, you may be in for a big surprise when your local building official tells you that the $ 179 blow-up pool you just bought requires a barrier around it that also includes alarms on the doors to your home if the wall of the house is part of the barrier. Since the physical characteristics of a pool barrier differ greatly from the average back-yard fence, don't assume a fenced yard lets you off the hook. Every year a child drowns in a tragic accident involving an unprotected pool. Avoid a needless tragedy, make sure your pool is protected! For answers to your questions, consult your local building department or call the office of the State Building Inspector at (860) 685-8310.

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