

## SECTION 305

### BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

**305.1 General.** The provisions of this section shall apply to the design of *barriers* for *aquatic vessels*. These design controls are intended to provide protection against the potential drowning and near drowning by restricting access to such vessels. These requirements provide an integrated level of protection against potential drowning through the use of physical barriers and warning devices.

#### Exceptions:

1. *Spas* and hot tubs with a lockable safety cover that complies with ASTM F 1346.

**305.2 Outdoor swimming pools and spas.** All outdoor *aquatic vessels* 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.** 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 *aquatic vessel*. Such height shall exist around the entire perimeter of the vessel and for a distance of 3 feet (914 mm) where measured horizontally from 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 vessel.
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 vessel.
4. Where the top of the vessel structure is above grade, the *barrier* shall be installed on grade or shall be mounted on top of the vessel structure. Where the *barrier* is mounted on the top of the vessel, the vertical clearance between the top of the vessel and the bottom of the *barrier* shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm).

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

**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.

**305.2.4 Mesh restraining barrier/fence.** Mesh fences, other than chain link fences in accordance with Section 305.2.7, shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions

1. The bottom of the mesh restraining fence shall be not more than 1 inch (25 mm) above the deck or installed surface or grade.
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. 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 not be more than 4 inches (102 mm) from grade or decking.
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. Where a hinged gate is used with a mesh *barrier*, the gate shall comply with Section 305.3.
6. Patio deck sleeves such as vertical post receptacles which are placed inside the patio surface shall be of a nonconductive material.
7. Mesh fences shall not be used on top of on ground residential pools.

## FENCE CERTIFICATE

1. Please be advised that I am aware of the fact that a fence is required for safety reasons on any swimming pool over 24" deep.
2. I further state that I will install a permanent fence prior to filling the pool.  
Inspection required.
3. Failure to comply with the above will result in a \$2,000.00 fine.

OWNER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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 *aquatic vessel* side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1.75 inches (44 mm) in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75 inches (44 mm) in width.

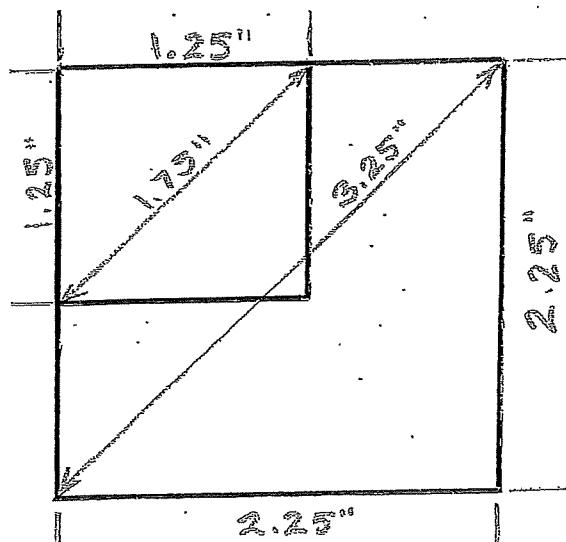
305.2.6 Widely spaced horizontal members. Where the *barrier* is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches (1143 mm) or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75 inches (44 mm) in width.

305.2.7 Chain link dimensions. The maximum opening formed by a chain link fence shall be not more than 1.75 inches (44 mm). Where the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top and bottom which reduces the openings, such openings shall be not more than 1.75 inches (44 mm).

305.2.8 Diagonal members. Where the *barrier* is composed of diagonal members, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be not more than 1.75 inches (44 mm). The angle of diagonal members shall not be greater than 45 degrees (0.79 rad) from vertical.

305.2.9 Clear zone. There shall be a clear zone of not less than 36 inches (914 mm) around the exterior of the *barrier* and around any permanent structures or equipment such as pumps, filters and heaters that can be used to climb the *barrier*.

305.2.10 Poolside barrier setbacks. The *aquatic vessel* side of the required *barrier* shall be not less than 20 inches (508 mm) from the water's edge.



305.3 Gates. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Sections 305.3.1 through 305.3.3 and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the vessel and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device.

305.3.1 Utility or service gates. Gates not intended for pedestrian use, such as utility or service gates, shall remain locked when not in use.

305.3.2 Double or multiple gates. Double gates or multiple gates shall have at least one leaf secured in place and the adjacent leaf shall be secured with a self-latching device. The gate and *barrier* shall not have openings larger than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the latch release mechanism. The self-latching device shall comply with the requirements of Section 305.3.3.

305.3.3 Latches. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from grade, the release mechanism shall be located on the vessel side of the gate at least 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate, and the gate and *barrier* shall not have openings greater than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism.

305.5 Onground residential pool structure as a barrier. An onground *residential* pool wall structure or a barrier mounted on top of an onground *residential* pool wall structure shall serve as a barrier where all of the following conditions are present:

1. Where only the pool wall serves as the barrier, the bottom of the wall is on grade, the top of the wall is not less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade for the entire perimeter of the pool, the wall complies with the requirements of Section 305.2 and the pool manufacturer allows the wall to serve as a barrier.
2. Where a barrier is mounted on top of the pool wall, the top of the barrier is not less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade for the entire perimeter of the pool, and the wall and the barrier on top of the wall comply with the requirements of Section 305.2.
3. Ladders or steps used as means of access to the pool are surrounded by a barrier that meets the requirements of Section 305.

305.6 Natural barriers. In the case where the pool or spa area abuts the edge of a lake or other natural body of water, public access is not permitted or allowed along the shoreline, and required barriers extend to and beyond the water's edge not less than 18 inches (457 mm), a barrier is not required between the natural body of water shoreline and the pool or spa.

305.7 Natural topography. Natural topography that prevents direct access to the pool or spa area shall include but not be limited to mountains and natural rock formations. A natural barrier approved by the governing body shall be acceptable provided that the degree of protection is not less than the protection afforded by the requirements of Sections 305.2 through 305.5.