TOWN OF LOOMIS

Swimming Pool Safety Requirements

Safety Features Required:

Whenever a building permit is issued for construction of a new swimming pool or spa, or any building pe1mit is issued for remodeling an existing pool or spa at a single family or duplex building, the barrier shall be in place prior to final approval. The pool or spa shall be equipped with at least two of the following seven drowning prevention features:

Exception: Hot tubs or Spas equipped with locking safety covers that comply ·with the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM F1346).

1. The pool or spa shall be isolated from access by an enclosure meeting the requirements of section 14 of these requirements.

2. The pool or spa shall incorporate removable mesh pool fencing that meets American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Specifications F2286 standards in conjunction with a gate that is self-closing and self-latching and can accommodate a key lockable device.

3. The pool shall be equipped with an approved safety pool cover that meets all requirements of the ASTM Specifications F1346-91.

4. The residence, or building providing access, shall be equipped with exit almms on those doors providing access to the pool or spa.

5. All doors providing direct access from the home to the swimming pool or spa shall be equipped with a self-latching, self-closing device with a release mechanism placed no lower than fifty-four (54) inches above the floor.

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6. Swimming pool alanns that, when placed in pools, will sound upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. These pool alarms shall meet and be independently certified to the ASTM Standard F2208 "Standards Specifications for Pool Alarms" which includes surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser and infrared type alarms. For purposes of this code, "swimming pool alarms" shall not include swimming protection alarm devices designed for individual use, such as an alarm attached to a child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water.

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 for the above, and have been independently verified by an approved, nationally recognized testing laboratory as meeting standards for those devices established by the ASTM or the American Society of Testing Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

Prior to the issuance of any final approval for the completion of permitted construction or remodeling work, the Building Official shall inspect the drowning safety prevention devices required by code and if no violations ore found, shall give final approval.

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 or spa and are self-closing with a self-latching device placed no lower than sixty (60) inches above the ground.

2. A minimum height of sixty (60) inches.

3. A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of two (2) inches.

4. Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than four (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 (5) years old to climb over.

6. Garage overhead doors, and vehicle gates are not permitted as part of the fencing or enclosure.

Construction requirements for building a pool or spa:

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:

1. 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.

2. 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 Code.

3. 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 items one through four 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.

6. 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.

Entrapment Avoidance:

Suction outlets shall be designed and installed in accordance with ANSI/ASAP-7.

Special plumbing and electrical requirements:

For plumbing and electrical requirements applicable to swimming pools see the current edition of the California Plumbing Code & the California Electrical Code.

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