

2024



ISPSC[®]

INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING POOL
AND SPA CODE[®]

INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL



**POOL &
HOT TUB**
ALLIANCE



2024



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2024 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code®

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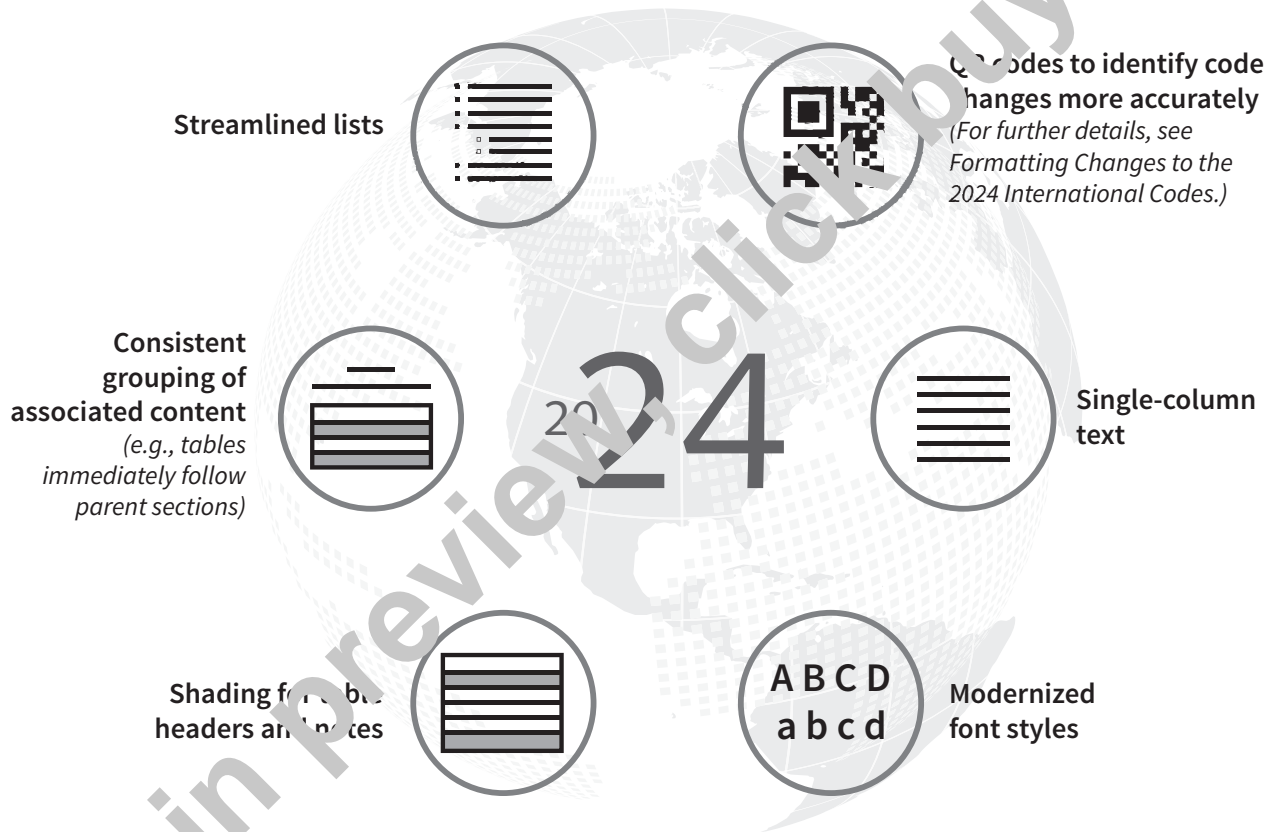
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NEW DESIGN FOR THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL CODES



The 2024 International Codes® (I-Codes®) have undergone substantial formatting changes as part of the digital transformation strategy of the International Code Council® (ICC®) to improve the user experience. The resulting product better aligns the print and PDF versions of the I-Codes with the ICC's Digital Codes® content. The changes, promoting a cleaner, more modern look and enhancing readability and sustainability, include:



More information can be found at iccsafe.org/design-updates.



PREFACE

FORMATTING CHANGES TO THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL CODES

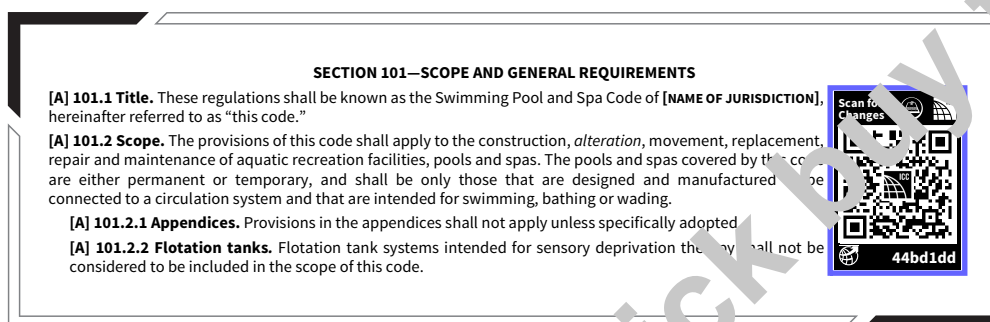
The 2024 International Codes® (I-Codes®) have undergone substantial formatting changes as part of the digital transformation strategy of the International Code Council® (ICC®) to improve the user experience. The resulting product better aligns the print and PDF versions of the I-Codes with the ICC's Digital Code content. Additional information can be found at iccsafe.org/design-updates.

Replacement of Marginal Markings with QR Codes

Through 2021, print editions of the I-Codes identified technical changes from prior code cycles with marginal markings [solid vertical lines for new text, deletion arrows (➔), asterisks for relocations (*)]. The 2024 I-Code print editions replace the marginal markings with QR codes to identify code changes more precisely.

A QR code is placed at the beginning of any section that has undergone technical revision. If there is no QR code, there are no technical changes to that section.

In the following example from the 2024 *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code*® (ISPSC®), a QR code indicates there are changes to Section 101 from the 2021 ISPSC. Note that the change may occur in the main section or in one or more subsections of the main section.



To see the code changes, the user need only scan the QR code with a smart device. If scanning a QR code is not an option, changes can be accessed by entering the 7-digit code beneath the QR code at the end of the following URL: qr.iccsafe.org/ (in the above example, "qr.iccsafe.org/44bd1dd"). Those viewing the code book via PDF can click on the QR code.

All methods take the user to the appropriate section on ICC's Digital Codes website, where technical changes from the prior cycle can be viewed. Digital Codes Premium subscribers who are logged in will be automatically directed to the Premium view. All other users will be directed to the Digital Codes Basic free view. Both views show new code language in blue text along with deletion arrows for deleted text and relocation markers for relocated text.

Digital Codes Premium offers additional ways to enhance code compliance research, including revision histories, commentary by code experts and an advanced search function. A full list of features can be found at codes.iccsafe.org/premium-features.

ACCESSING ADDITIONAL FEATURES VIA REGISTRATION OF BOOK

Beginning with the 2024 *International Mechanical Code*® (IMC®) and the 2024 *International Plumbing Code*® (IPC®), users will be able to validate the authenticity of their book and register it with the ICC to receive incentives. Digital Codes Premium (codes.iccsafe.org) provides advanced features and exclusive content to enhance code compliance. To validate and register, the user will tap the ICC tag (pictured here and located on the front cover) with a near-field communication (NFC) compatible device. Visit iccsafe.org/nfc for more information and troubleshooting tips regarding NFC tag technology.



ABOUT THE I-CODES

The 2024 I-Codes, published by the ICC, are 15 fully compatible titles intended to establish provisions that adequately protect public health, safety and welfare; that do not unnecessarily increase construction costs; that do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; and that do not give preferential treatment to particular types or classes of materials, products or methods of construction.

The I-Codes are updated on a 3-year cycle to allow for new construction methods and technologies to be incorporated into the codes. Alternative materials, designs and methods not specifically addressed in the I-Code can be approved by the building official when the proposed materials, designs or methods comply with the intent of the provisions of the code.

The I-Codes are used as the basis of laws and regulations in communities across the US and in other countries. They are also used in a variety of nonregulatory settings, including:

- Voluntary compliance programs.
- The insurance industry.

- Certification and credentialing for building design, construction and safety professionals.
- Certification of building and construction-related products.
- Facilities management.
- “Best practices” benchmarks for designers and builders.
- College, university and professional school textbooks and curricula.
- Reference works related to building design and construction.

Code Development Process

The code development process regularly provides an international forum for building professionals to discuss requirements for building design, construction methods, safety, performance, technological advances and new products. Proposed changes to the I-Codes, submitted by code enforcement officials, industry representatives, design professionals and other interested parties, are deliberated through an open code development process in which all interested and affected parties may participate.

Openness, transparency, balance, due process and consensus are the guiding principles of both the ICC Code Development Process and OMB Circular A-119, which governs the federal government’s use of private-sector standards. The ICC process is open to anyone without cost. Remote participation is available through cdpAccess®, the ICC’s cloud-based app.

In order to ensure that organizations with a direct and material interest in the codes have a voice in the process, the ICC has developed partnerships with key industry segments that support the ICC’s important public safety mission. Some code development committee members were nominated by the following industry partners and approved by the ICC Board:

- American Gas Association (AGA)
- American Institute of Architects (AIA)
- American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE)
- International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)
- National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)
- National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)
- National Council of Structural Engineers Association (NCSEA)
- National Multifamily Housing Council (NMHC)
- Plumbing Heating and Cooling Contractors (PHCC)
- Pool and Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA) formerly The Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP)

Code development committees evaluate and make recommendations regarding proposed changes to the codes. Their recommendations are then subject to public comment and council-wide votes. The ICC’s governmental members—public safety officials who have no financial or business interest in the outcome cast the final votes on proposed changes.

The I-Codes are subject to change through future code development cycles and by any governmental entity that enacts the code into law. For more information regarding the code development process, contact the Codes and Standards Development Department of the ICC at iccsafe.org/products-and-services/codes/code-development/.

While the I-Code development procedure is thorough and comprehensive, the ICC, its members and those participating in the development of the codes expressly disclaim any liability resulting from the publication or use of the I-Codes, or from compliance or noncompliance with their provisions. NO WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, IMPLIED, EXPRESSED OR STATUTORY, IS GIVEN WITH RESPECT TO THE I-CODES. The ICC does not have the power or authority to police or enforce compliance with the contents of the I-Codes.

Code Development Committee Responsibilities (Letter Designations in Front of Section Numbers)

In each cycle, proposed changes are considered by the Code Development Committee assigned to a specific code or subject matter. Committee Action Hearings result in recommendations regarding a proposal to the voting membership. Where changes to a code section are not considered by that code’s own committee, the code section is preceded by a bracketed letter designation identifying a different committee. Bracketed letter designations for the I-Code committees are:

- [A] = Administrative Code Development Committee
- [BE] = Building Egress Code Development Committee
- [BF] = IFCC—Fire Safety Code Development Committee
- [G] = IBC—General Code Development Committee
- [S] = IBC—Structural Code Development Committee
- [E] = Developed under the ICC’s Standard Development Process
- [EB] = International Existing Building Code Development Committee
- [F] = International Fire Code Development Committee
- [FG] = International Fuel Gas Code Development Committee
- [M] = International Mechanical Code Development Committee

[P] = International Plumbing Code Development Committee

[SP] = International Swimming Pool and Spa Code Development Committee

For the development of the 2027 edition of the I-Codes, the ICC Board of Directors approved a standing motion from the Board Committee on the Long-Term Code Development Process to revise the code development cycle to incorporate two committee action hearings for each code group. This change expands the current process from two independent 1-year cycles to a single continuous 3-year cycle. There will be two groups of code development committees and they will meet in separate years. The current groups will be reworked. With the energy provisions of the *International Energy Conservation Code*® (IECC®) and Chapter 11 of the *International Residential Code*® (IRC®) now moved to the Code Council's Standards Development Process, the reduced volume of code changes will be distributed between Groups A and B.

Code change proposals submitted for code sections that have a letter designation in front of them will be heard by the respective committee responsible for such code sections. Because different committees hold Committee Action Hearings in different years, proposals for most codes will be heard by committees in both the 2024 (Group A) and the 2025 (Group B) code development cycle. It is very important that anyone submitting code change proposals understands which code development committee is responsible for the section of the code that is the subject of the code change proposal.

Please visit the ICC website at iccsafe.org/products-and-services/i-codes/code-development/current-code-development-cycle for further information on the Code Development Committee responsibilities as it becomes available.

Coordination of the I-Codes

The coordination of technical provisions allows the I-Codes to be used as a complete set of complementary documents. Individual codes can also be used in subsets or as stand-alone documents. Some technical provisions that are relevant to more than one subject area are duplicated in multiple model codes.

Italicized Terms

Words and terms defined in Chapter 2, Definitions, are italicized where they appear in code text, and the Chapter 2 definitions apply. Although care has been taken to ensure applicable terms are italicized, there may be instances where a defined term has not been italicized or where a term is italicized but the definition found in Chapter 2 is not applicable. For example, Chapter 2 of the *International Building Code*® (IBC®) contains a definition for “Listed” that is applicable to equipment, products and services. The term “listed” is also used in that code to refer to a list of items within the code or within a referenced document. For the latter, the Chapter 2 definition would not be applicable.

Adoption of International Code Council Codes and Standards

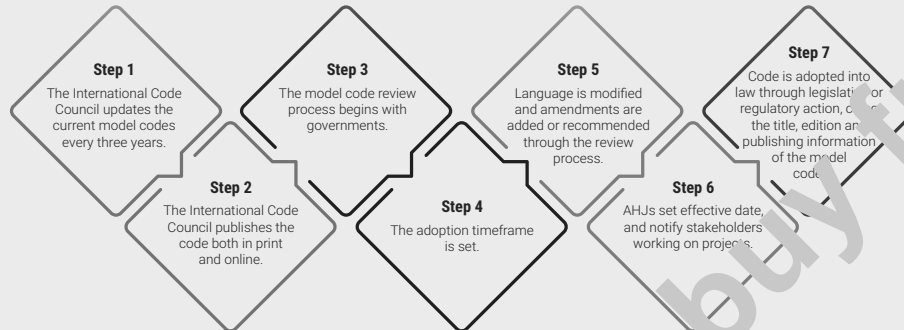
The International Code Council maintains a copyright in all of its codes and standards. Maintaining copyright allows the Code Council to fund its mission through sales of books in both print and digital format. The Code Council welcomes incorporation by reference of its codes and standards by jurisdictions that recognize and acknowledge the Code Council's copyright in the codes and standards, and further acknowledge the substantial shared value of the public-private partnership for code development between jurisdictions and the Code Council. By making its codes and standards available for incorporation by reference, the Code Council does not waive its copyright in its codes and standards.

The Code Council's codes and standards may only be adopted by incorporation by reference in an ordinance passed by the governing body of the jurisdiction. “Incorporation by reference” means that in the adopting ordinance, the governing body cites only the title, edition, relevant sections or subsections (where applicable), and publishing information of the model code or standard, and the actual text of the model code or standard is not included in the ordinance (see graphic, “Adoption of International Code Council Codes and Standards”). The Code Council does not consent to the reproduction of the text of its codes or standards in any ordinance. If the governing body enacts any changes, only the text of those changes or amendments may be included in the ordinance.



ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL CODES AND STANDARDS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

What does “incorporate by reference” mean? If a governmental agency or authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) over code adoption wishes to adopt a model code for legislative or regulatory purposes, it will enact an ordinance, regulation or law to incorporate by reference (IBR) the relevant code. The actual text of the model code is not included in the law, but the enacting law will include the full text of any changes or amendments enacted by the legislative body of the AHJ.



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The Code Council also recognizes the need for jurisdictions to make laws accessible to the public. Accordingly, all I-Codes and I-Standards, along with the laws of many jurisdictions, are available to view for free at codes.iccsafe.org/codes/i-codes. These documents may also be purchased, in both digital and print versions, at shop.iccsafe.org.

To facilitate adoption, some I-Code sections contain blanks for fill-in information that needs to be supplied by the adopting jurisdiction as part of the adoption legislation. For example, the ISPC contains:

Section 101.1. Insert: **[NAME OF JURISDICTION]**

Section 103.1. Insert: **[NAME OF DEPARTMENT]**

Section 113.4. Insert: **[SPECIFY OFFENSE], [AMOUNT], [NUMBER OF DAYS]**

Section A101.3. Insert: **[NUMBER OF YEARS]**

For further information or assistance with adoption, including a sample ordinance, jurisdictions should contact the Code Council at incorporation@iccsafe.org.

For a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) addressing a range of foundational topics about the adoption of model codes by jurisdictions and to learn more about the Code Council’s code adoption resources, scan the QR code or visit iccsafe.org/code-adoption-resources.



INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING POOL AND SPA CODE

The ISPC establishes minimum requirements for the design, construction, alteration, repair and maintenance of swimming pools, spas, hot tubs and aquatic facilities. This includes public swimming pools, public spas, public exercise spas, aquatic recreation facilities, ongoing in-ground residential pools, permanent inground residential pools, permanent residential spas, permanent residential exercise spas, portable residential spas and portable residential exercise spas.

In many jurisdictions, in addition to code officials having the responsibility for reviewing plans and inspecting the construction of pools and spas, environmental health officials also have a responsibility for oversight of the operation of pools and spas. In order to prevent disease and injuries, environmental health officials conduct operational evaluations (inspections). This may include water chemistry, credentials and training of pool operators and lifeguards, proper water circulation, facility staff’s preparedness to respond to injuries and accidents, and proper sanitation and safety of the facility.

Code officials and environmental health officials commonly work closely in the plan review and inspection of pools and spas. This collaboration between departments to jointly review plans and inspect pools and spas is critical in order to achieve a safe and healthy environment for all that utilize these facilities.

The Pool and Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA) [formerly The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP)], a cooperating sponsor with ICC in the development and update of the ISPSC, further notes: “While it is recognized that proper construction and installation are essential, safe use of pools and spas requires common sense, including constant adult supervision of children and proper operation and maintenance. It is assumed and intended that pool users will exercise appropriate personal judgment and responsibility and that owners and operators of public and residential pools and spas will create and enforce rules and warning appropriate for their facilities.”

ARRANGEMENT AND FORMAT OF THE 2024 ISPSC

The format of the ISPSC allows each chapter to be devoted to a particular subject with the exception of Chapter 3, which contains general compliance subject matter that is coordinated with the provisions for each type of pool and spa regulated in Chapters 4–10.

The following table shows how the ISPSC is divided. The chapter synopses detail the scope and intent of the provisions of the ISPSC.

CHAPTER TOPICS	
CHAPTERS	SUBJECTS
1	Scope and Administration
2	Definitions
3	General Compliance
4	Public Swimming Pools
5	Public Spas and Public Exercise Spas
6	Aquatic Recreation Facilities
7	Onground Storable Residential Swimming Pools
8	Permanent Inground Residential Swimming Pools
9	Permanent Residential Spas and Permanent Residential Exercise Spas
10	Portable Residential Spas and Portable Residential Exercise Spas
11	Referenced Standards
Appendix A	Board of Appeals

Chapter 1 Scope and Administration.

Chapter 1 establishes the limits of applicability of the code and describes how the code is to be applied and enforced. The provisions of Chapter 1 establish the authority and duties of the code official appointed by the authority having jurisdiction and also establish the rights and privileges of the design professional, contractor and property owner.

Chapter 2 Definitions.

Chapter 2 is the repository of the definitions of terms used in the body of the code. The user of the code should be familiar with and consult this chapter because the definitions are essential to the correct interpretation of the code and because the user may not be aware that a term is defined.

Chapter 3 General Compliance.

Chapter 3 includes a variety of requirements for pools and spas intended to maintain a minimum level of safety and sanitation for both the general public and the users of pools or spas.

Chapter 4 Public Swimming Pools.

Chapter 4 sets forth specific requirements for public swimming pools with regard to diving equipment, bather load limitations, rest ledges, wading pool decks, deck equipment, filters, dressing and sanitary facilities, special features and signage.

Chapter 5 Public Spas and Public Exercise Spas.

Chapter 5 establishes the specific criteria for public spas and public exercise spas with regard to materials, structure and design, pumps and motors, return and suction fittings, heater and temperature requirements, water supply, sanitation, oxidation equipment and chemical feeders, and safety features.

Chapter 6 Aquatic Recreation Facilities.

Chapter 6 establishes specific requirements for aquatic recreation facilities with regard to floors, markings and indications, circulation systems, handholds and ropes, depths, barriers, number of occupants, toilet rooms and bathrooms, special features and signage.

Chapter 7 Onground Storable Residential Swimming Pools.

Chapter 7 establishes specific requirements for onground storable residential swimming pools with regard to ladders and stairs, decks and circulation systems.

Chapter 8 Permanent Inground Residential Swimming Pools.

Chapter 8 establishes specific requirements for permanent inground residential swimming pools with regard to design, construction tolerances, diving water envelopes, walls, offset ledges, pool floors, diving equipment, special features, circulation systems and safety features.

Chapter 9 Permanent Residential Spas and Permanent Residential Exercise Spas.

Chapter 9 establishes specific requirements for permanent residential spas and permanent residential exercise spas with regard to safety features.

Chapter 10 Portable Residential Spas and Portable Residential Exercise Spas.

Chapter 10 establishes specific requirements for portable residential spas and portable residential exercise spas with regard to standards that the equipment must meet.

Chapter 11 Referenced Standards.

Chapter 11 lists all of the product and installation standards and codes that are referenced throughout Chapters 1 through 10 and includes identification of the promulgators and the section numbers in which the standards and codes are referenced. As stated in Section 102.7, these standards and codes become an enforceable part of the code (to the prescribed extent of the reference) as if printed in the body of the code.

Appendix A Board of Appeals.

Appendix A contains the provisions for appeal and the establishment of a board of appeals. The provisions include the application for an appeal, the makeup of the board of appeals and the conduct of the appeal process.

RELOCATION OF TEXT OF TABLES

The following table indicates relocation of sections and tables in the 2024 edition of the ISPSC from the 2021 edition.

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2024 LOCATION	2021 LOCATION
104.2.2.4	104.11
104.2.3	104.10
104.2.4	104.9
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104.7.2	104.5
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SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION

User notes:

About this chapter:

Chapter 1 establishes the limits of applicability of this code and describes how the code is to be applied and enforced. Chapter 1 is in two parts: Part 1—Scope and Application (Sections 101–102) and Part 2—Administration and Enforcement (Sections 103–114). Section 101 identifies which buildings and structures come under its purview and references other I-Codes as applicable. Standards and codes are scoped to the extent referenced (see Section 102.7).

This code is intended to be adopted as a legally enforceable document and it cannot be effective without adequate provisions for its administration and enforcement. The provisions of Chapter 1 establish the authority and duties of the code official appointed by the authority having jurisdiction and also establish the rights and privileges of the design professional, contractor and property owner.

Section 105 was revised and relocated to Section 104 for the 2024 edition. For clarity, the relocation marginal markings have not been included. For complete information, see the Relocations table in the Preface of this code.

QR code use:

A QR code is placed at the beginning of any section that has undergone technical revision. To see those revisions, scan the QR code with a smart device or enter the 7-digit code beneath the QR code at the end of the following URL: qr.iccsafe.org/ (see *Formatting Changes to the 2024 International Codes for more information*).

PART 1—SCOPE AND APPLICATION

SECTION 101—SCOPE AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS



[A] 101.1 Title. These regulations shall be known as the Swimming Pool and Spa Code of [NAME OF JURISDICTION], hereinafter referred to as “this code.”

[A] 101.2 Scope. The provisions of this code shall apply to the construction, *alteration*, movement, replacement, repair and maintenance of aquatic recreation facilities, pools and spas. The pools and spas covered by this code are either permanent or temporary, and shall be only those that are designed and manufactured to be connected to a circulation system and that are intended for swimming, bathing or wading.

[A] 101.2.1 Appendices. Provisions in the appendices shall not apply unless specifically adopted.

[A] 101.2.2 Flotation tanks. Flotation tank systems intended for sensory deprivation therapy shall not be considered to be included in the scope of this code.

[A] 101.3 Purpose. The purpose of this code is to establish minimum requirements to provide a reasonable level of safety, health, property protection and general welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, installation, quality of materials, location and maintenance or use of pools and spas.

[A] 101.4 Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this code is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code.

SECTION 102—APPLICABILITY



[A] 102.1 General. Where there is a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall govern. Where, in any specific case, different sections of this code specify different materials, methods of construction or other requirements, the most restrictive shall govern.

[A] 102.2 Existing installations. Any pool or spa and related mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems lawfully in existence at the time of the adoption of this code shall be permitted to have their use and maintenance continued if the use, maintenance or repair is in accordance with the original design and no hazard to life, health or property is created.

[A] 102.3 Maintenance. Pools and spas and related mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, both existing and new, and parts thereof, shall be maintained in proper operating condition in accordance with the original design in a safe and sanitary condition. Devices or safeguards that are required by this code shall be maintained in compliance with the edition of the code under which they were installed.

The owner or the owner’s authorized agent shall be responsible for maintenance of systems. To determine compliance with this provision, the *code official* shall have the authority to require any system to be reinspected.

[A] 102.4 Alterations or repairs. *Alterations* or *repairs* to any pool, spa or related system shall conform to that required for a new system without requiring the existing systems to comply with the requirements of this code. Alterations or repairs shall not cause existing systems to become unsafe, insanitary or overloaded.

Minor alterations and repairs to existing systems shall be permitted in the same manner and arrangement as in the existing system, provided that such repairs or replacement are not hazardous and are *approved*.