

SECTION 303

SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS

303.1 Swimming pools. Swimming pools shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and in good repair.

- Swimming pools, if neglected, can become a health hazard, resulting in insect-attracting stagnant water.

303.2 Enclosures. Private swimming pools, hot tubs and spas, containing water more than 24 inches (610 mm) in depth shall be completely surrounded by a fence or barrier at least 48 inches (1219 mm) in height above the finished ground level measured on the side of the barrier away from the pool. Gates and doors in such barriers shall be self-closing and self-latching. Where the self-latching device is less than 54 inches (1372 mm) above the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate. Self-closing and selflatching gates shall be maintained such that the gate will positively close and latch when released from an open position of 6 inches (152 mm) from the gatepost. No existing pool enclosure shall be removed, replaced or changed in a manner that reduces its effectiveness as a safety barrier.

Exception: Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover that complies with ASTM F 1346 shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.

- This performance-based criteria was specifically added to address pool-related problems where a child could possibly drown by gaining entry into a pool through a gate that failed to close and latch properly. Gates that may have deteriorated over time through age, wear and exposure to the elements are now addressed so that they will continue to provide the intended level of protection. The exception to this section allows for safety covers that comply with ASTM F 1346. This exception is consistent with current provisions in the IBC and the *International Residential Code®* (IRC®).

ASTM F 1346, *Standard Performance Standard Specification for Safety Covers and Labeling Requirements for All Covers for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs*, contains requirements including a means of fastening the safety cover to the hot tub or spa, such as key locks, combination locks or similar devices that will keep the cover in place; testing to demonstrate that the cover can support a minimum required weight; limitations on openings in the cover and minimum installation requirements.