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MEMORANDUM

TO: Construction Officials

FROM: Edward M. Smith 
Director
Division of Codes and Standards

DATE: July 11, 2016

SUBJECT: 2015 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code

This memorandum is intended to focus enforcement effort with regard to swimming pools and spas and to establish priorities.

With the adoption of the 2015 International Codes, the 2015 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) is adopted by reference as part of the Uniform Construction Code. It should be noted that the provisions of the ISPSC are not new. These provisions were previously contained in referenced standards or in appendices (NSPI/APSP or Appx G).

As always, attention should be given to the requirements that go to safety, including:

- Entrapment hazards (APSP/ICC 7)
- Pool barriers (Section 305/ISPSC)
- Bonding and grounding (Art 680/NEC).

For plan review purposes, a general note indicating that the pool or spa will conform to the 2015 ISPSC should be accepted. It is not necessary to require plans that show every detail of the pool or spa to be installed. The pressure testing of piping, which has been required since adoption of the 2009 codes, should be included as part of the inspection as this is not easily addressed after concrete has been poured. And again, the inspection should focus on safety: entrapment hazards (plumbing,) pool barriers (building) and bonding and grounding (electrical.)

All of us are trying to get the job done with scarce resources. Focusing on the requirements of the ISPSC that go to safety, rather than giving equal import to every detail, will enable local code enforcement agencies to fulfill their responsibility to the public they serve without devoting a disproportionate amount of time to ISPSC enforcement.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Code Assistance Unit at codeassist@dca.nj.gov or 609-984-7609.

