



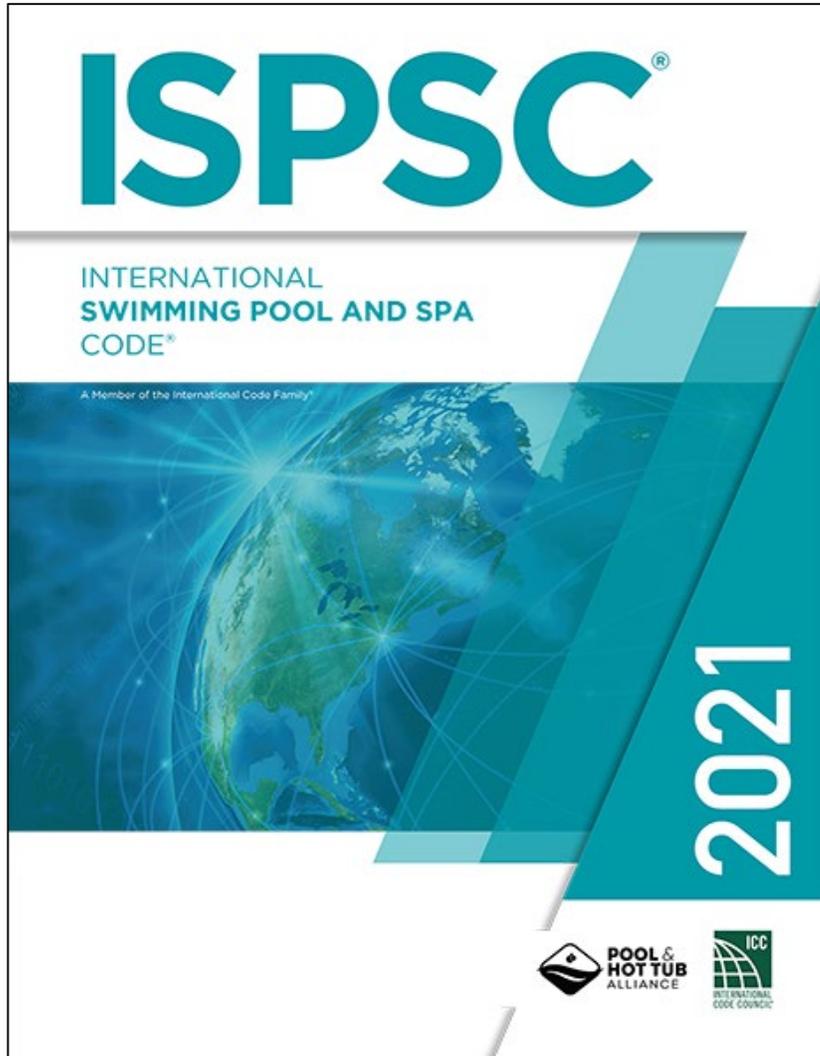
HOUSTON CONSTRUCTION CODE MODERNIZATION



**HOUSTON
PUBLIC WORKS**

**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES & HIGHLIGHTS
OF THE 2021 SWIMMING POOL AND SPA
CODE**





INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING POOL AND SPA CODE

Significant changes and highlights to the 2021 ISPSC

CONSTRUCTION CODE MODERNIZATION

ISPSC CHAPTER 3



2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

303.1.3
Covers

ISPSC Changes:

Exception added to outdoor heated pools that require a vapor retardant cover. Where more than 70 percent of the energy for heating, computed over an operating season, is from a heat pump or solar energy source, covers shall not be required.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

305.1
Barrier
Requirements

ISPSC New Language:

305.1 General. The provisions of this section shall apply to the design of barriers for restricting entry into areas having pools and spas. Where spas or hot tubs are equipped with a lockable safety cover complying with ASTM F1346 and swimming pools are equipped with a powered safety cover that complies with ASTM F1346, the areas where those spas, hot tubs or pools are located shall not be required to comply with Sections 305.2 through 305.7.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

305.2.4.1

Setback for
Mesh Fences

ISPSC New Language:

305.2.4.1 Setback for mesh fences. The inside of a mesh fence shall be not closer than 20 inches (508 mm) to the nearest edge of the water of a pool or spa.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

305.2.9
Clear Zone

ISPSC New Language:

305.2.9 Clear zone. Where equipment, including pool equipment such as pumps, filters and heaters, is on the same lot as a pool or spa and such equipment is located outside of the barrier protecting the pool or spa, such equipment shall be located not less than 36 inches (914 mm) from the outside of the barrier.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

305.3 Doors and Gates

ISPSC New Language:

- **305.3 Doors and gates.** Doors and gates in barriers 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 doors and gates shall open outward away from the pool or spa, shall be self-closing and shall have a self-latching device.
- **305.3.1 Utility or service doors and gates.** Doors and gates not intended for pedestrian use, such as utility or service doors and gates, shall remain locked when not in use.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

305.3 Doors
and Gates

ISPSC New Language:

- 305.3.2 Double or multiple doors and gates. Double doors and gates or multiple doors and gates shall have not fewer than one leaf secured in place and the adjacent leaf shall be secured with a self-latching device.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

305.3 Doors and Gates

ISPSC New Language:

- **305.3.3 Latch release.** For doors and gates in barriers, the door and gate latch release mechanisms shall be in accordance with the following:
 1. Where door and gate latch release mechanisms are accessed from the outside of the barrier and are not of the self-locking type, such mechanism shall be located above the finished floor or ground surface in accordance with the following:
 - 1.1. At public pools and spas, not less than 52 inches (1219 mm) and not greater than 54 inches (1372 mm).
 - 1.2. At residential pools and spas, not less 54 inches (1372 mm).

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

305.3 Doors and Gates

ISPSC New Language:

2. Where door and gate latch release mechanisms are of the self-locking type such as where the lock is operated by means of a key, an electronic opener or the entry of a combination into an integral combination lock, the lock operation control and the latch release mechanism shall be located above the finished floor or ground surface in accordance with the following:

2.1. At public pools and spas, not less than 34 inches and not greater than 48 inches (1219 mm).

2.2. At residential pools and spas, at not greater than 54 inches (1372 mm)

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

305.3 Doors
and Gates

ISPSC New Language:

3. At private pools, where the only latch release mechanism of a self-latching device for a gate is located on the pool and spa side of the barrier, the release mechanism shall be located at a point that is at least 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

305.3 Doors
and Gates

ISPSC New Language:

305.3.4 Barriers adjacent to latch release mechanisms. Where a latch release mechanism is located on the inside of a barrier, openings in the door, gate and barrier within 18 inches (457 mm) of the latch shall not be greater than 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) in any dimension.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

305.8
Means of
Egress

ISPSC New Language:

305.8 Means of egress. Outdoor public pools provided with barriers shall have means of egress as required by Chapter 10 of the Houston Building Code.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

306
Decks

ISPSC Changes:

The structural design and installation of decks shall be in accordance with the IRC or the IBC as applicable

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

307.2.5
Plaster

ISPSC Changes:

307.2.5 Plaster. The plastering of pools and permanently installed concrete spas shall be in accordance with APSP/NPC/ICC-12.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

311 Circulation Systems

ISPSC Changes:

311.3 Water velocity. The water velocity in suction and return piping shall comply with either Section 311.3.1 or 311.3.2. The water velocity in copper and copper alloy piping shall not exceed 8 fps (2.4 mps). All water velocity calculations shall be based on the design flow rate specified for each recirculation system.

311.3.1 Public pools and spas. For public pools and spas, suction piping water velocity shall not exceed 6 fps (1.8 mps) and return piping water velocity shall not exceed 8 fps (2.4 mps).

311.3.2 Residential pools and spas. For residential pools and spas, the water velocity in suction piping and return piping shall not exceed 8 fps (2.4 mps).

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

316
Heaters

ISPSC Changes:

Heaters and hot water storage tanks shall be listed and labeled, including solar thermal water heaters. Must be in accordance with one of the applicable standards listed in Table 316.2(1) for Water Heaters or Table 316.2(2) Water Heating Systems and Components.

TABLE 316.2(1)
WATER HEATERS

DEVICE	STANDARD
Electric water heater	UL 1261, UL 1563 or CSA C22.2 No. 218.1
Gas-fired water heater	ANSI Z21.56/CSA 4.7a
Heat exchanger	AHRI 400
Heat pump water heater	AHRI 1160 and one of the following: CSA C22.2 No. 236, UL 1995, or UL/CSA 60335-2-40

TABLE 316.2(2)
WATER HEATING SYSTEMS AND COMPONENTS

SYSTEM	STANDARD
Solar water heater	ICC/APSP 902/SRCC 400

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

318

Water supply

ISPSC Changes:

Potable water supply must be protected by an air gap complying with ASME A112.1.2, or a backflow prevention assembly.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

324

Equipment Rooms

ISPSC New Section:

Definition of Equipment Room is a space intended for the operation of pool pumps, filters, heaters, and controllers. This space is not intended for the storage of hazardous pool or spa chemicals.

New Section 324 applies to equipment rooms at public pools and spas and aquatic recreation facilities. Includes construction requirements, ventilation requirements, electrical must meet NFPA 70, marking requirements, facility siting requirements, access control, chemical storage, and air quality requirements.

CONSTRUCTION CODE MODERNIZATION

ISPSC CHAPTER 4



2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

407

Circulation Systems

ISPSC New Language:

407.3 Continuous water removal. The design of a gutter system shall accommodate continuous removal of water from the pool's upper surface at a rate of not less than 125 percent of the required total recirculation flow rate as determined by the design professional.

407.3.1 Gutter outlets. At a gutter flow condition of not less than 125 percent of the total recirculation flow as determined by the design professional, gutter outlets such as drop boxes, converters, return piping, or flumes shall be designed to prevent flooding of the gutter that would result in skimmed water re-entering the pool.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

407

Circulation Systems

ISPSC New Language:

407.3.2 Adequate mixing. Pools shall have wall or floor inlets or both to provide for adequate mixing. Inlets shall be hydraulically sized to provide the design flow rates for each area of the pool proportional to the turnover rate and the area covered by the inlet.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

407

Circulation Systems

ISPSC New Language:

407.4 Pool circulation. The filtration circulation system shall be designed with sufficient flexibility to achieve a hydraulic apportionment that will ensure effective distribution of treated water throughout the pool.

407.4.1 Inlets. Effective distribution of treated water shall be accomplished by either a continuous perimeter overflow system with integral inlets or by means of directionally adjustable inlets adequate in design, number, and location.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

407

Circulation Systems

ISPSC New Language:

407.4.2 Adequate mixing. Pools shall have wall or floor inlets or both to provide for adequate mixing. Inlets shall be hydraulically sized to provide the design flow rates for each area of the pool proportional to the turnover rate and the area covered by the inlet.

407.4.3 Floor inlets. Floor inlets shall be required for pools that are greater than 50 feet (15.2 m) wide. The spacing between floor inlets shall not exceed 20 feet (6.1m). Pools having only floor inlets shall have such inlets located within 15 feet (4.6 m) of the perimeter waterline. Where wall inlets are used in combination with floor inlets, the floor inlets shall be located not greater than 25 feet (7.6 m) from the nearest side walls.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

407

Circulation Systems

ISPSC New Language:

407.4.4 Wall inlets. The spacing between wall inlets shall not exceed 20 feet (6.1 m), measured along the perimeter waterline.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

410

Sanitary Facilities

ISPSC Changes:

Class A and B pools shall be provided with toilet facilities having the required number of plumbing fixtures with the Houston Building Code and Houston Plumbing Code.

CONSTRUCTION CODE MODERNIZATION

ISPSC CHAPTER 6



2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

609

Dressing and
Sanitary Facilities

ISPSC Changes:

Section 609 changed to Dressing and Sanitary Facilities

- References Building Code and Plumbing Code for number of water closets, urinals, lavatory, and drinking fountains and includes shower requirements.
- Rinse Showers are required in addition to normal showers.
- Temperature requirements at normal showers 90F to 120F, doesn't apply to rinse showers.

2021 ISPSC – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Code Section

612

Interactive

Water Play Features

ISPSC New Section:

Section 612 has been added for splash pads.

- Decking requirements, surfacing, sloping and safety is detailed in new section.
- Water Sanitation requirements are included. Pump must turn over basic capacity in 30 minutes or less. Water and equipment must be disinfected.
- Minimum Lighting Requirements

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES – SWIMMING POOL AND SPAS



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

Code Section

Chapter 265

Subchapter L

Rule 265.185

A pump for a pool or spa must not be operated if the owner or operator of the pool or spa knows or should know in the exercise of ordinary care that the drain grate, suction outlet, or any suction outlet cover is missing, broken, or loose. If such a condition exists, the pool or spa must be closed and remain closed until corrected

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

Code Section

Chapter 265

Subchapter L

Rule 265.186

(b) Extension cords. Temporary extension cords and power connectors must not be used as a substitute for permanent wiring.

(1) All parts of an extension cord must be restrained at a minimum of 6 feet as measured along the shortest possible path from a pool or spa during times when the pool or spa is open for use.

(2) An extension cord may be used within 6 feet of the nearest edge of a pool or spa if a permanent wall exists between the pool or spa and the extension cord.

(3) The circuit supplying power to an extension cord must be protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter, commonly referred to as GFCI, when the extension cord is to be used within 6 feet of a pool or spa.

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Code Section

Chapter 265

Subchapter L

Rule 265.187

(d) **Drinking water provided.** At least one drinking water fountain or other source of drinking water, such as bottled water, must be provided and available for pool and spa users at all pools and spas constructed on or after October 1, 1999, and must be available at all times the pool or spa is open for use. A faucet, spigot, or sink does not satisfy the requirements for providing drinking water. Glass containers must not be allowed on a deck, in the pool or spa, or anywhere within the pool yard or spa yard.

(1) The drinking water is not required to be chilled.

(2) The drinking water is not required to be in the pool or spa yard.

(3) When the drinking water is not located in the pool yard or spa yard, a sign with letters a minimum of 1 inch in height is required. The sign must be posted so that it is visible to users that informs the users of the location of the drinking water.

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Rule 265.191

(a) Lifeguards required. Pools and spas are required to meet the operational standard that is most applicable to their respective use. For example, a pool or spa that is normally operated as a Class C pool or spa but is occasionally made available to the public, with or without a fee, must meet Class B lifeguard standards when the pool is open to the general public, with or without a fee. A minimum of two lifeguards must be provided at:

(1) Class A pools during competitive events;

(2) Class B pools whenever the Class B pool is open;

(3) any pool where a user enters the water from any height above the deck or wall, including from diving boards, diving platforms, drop slides, waterslides, starting platforms, zip lines, or climbing walls that are open for use;

(4) any wave or surf pool; or

(5) any pool while it is being used for the recreation of youth groups, including youth camps, visiting childcare groups, or visiting school groups, and a minimum of two lifeguards must be provided by either the aquatic facility or by the youth group using the aquatic facility

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Rule 265.191

(b) Closing diving boards, diving platforms, drop slides, waterslides, starting platforms, zip line, or climbing wall. A diving board, diving platform, drop slide, waterslide, starting platform, zip line, climbing wall, or any other structure that allows entry from any height above the deck will be considered open unless there is a lock, chain, or other method used to prevent access to these structures, and a sign is posted on the entry to these structures stating that they are closed.

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Rule 265.191

(c) Lifeguards at spas. Lifeguards are not required at spas.

(d) Lifeguard staffing plan required. A staffing plan specifying the number of on-duty lifeguards must be prepared by the pool operator, lifeguard supervisor, or pool owner, and must provide adequate supervision and close observation of all users at all times. A copy of the plan must be available on-site and be provided to a DSHS or local regulatory authority inspector upon request.

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Subchapter L

Rule 265.191

(e) **Surveillance area.** Each lifeguard must be given an assigned surveillance area commensurate with ability and training. The lifeguard must be able to view the entire assigned surveillance area.

(f) **Other duties must not distract.** Lifeguards conducting surveillance of users must not be assigned duties that would distract the lifeguard's attention from proper observation of the users or that would prevent immediate assistance to persons in the water.

(g) **Lifeguard rotation required.** When lifeguards are provided or required, a rotation procedure for lifeguards is required. Lifeguards must have break time from guarding activities as recommended by ARC or equivalent aquatic safety organization.

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Rule 265.191

(h) Lifeguard training and drills. When lifeguards are provided or required, alertness and response drills and any other training is required, including:

(1) a pre-season training program;

(2) a continual "in-service" program of at least a minimum of 60 minutes for every 40 hours of employment by the lifeguard or other aquatic safety personnel;

(3) a review of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention standards for responding to formed-stool contamination, diarrheal-stool contamination, vomit contamination, and contamination involving blood;

(4) performance audits as recommended by the ARC, Young Men's Christian Association, or by an equivalent aquatic safety organization; and

(5) a facility emergency action plan for an event, such as submersion, suspected spinal injury, medical emergency, thunderstorm, missing person, bad weather, or chemical exposure.

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Subchapter L

Rule 265.191

(i) Emergency action plan. Any pool or spa emergency action plan must contain the following:

(1) a list of emergency phone numbers and contacts, including the trained and certified operator;

(2) the location of the first-aid kit and other rescue equipment such as the AED, BVM, and backboard;

(3) a response plan for inclement weather such as a thunderstorm, lightning, or high wind, including evacuation areas; and

(4) a plan following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention standards for responding to formed-stool contamination, diarrheal-stool contamination, vomit contamination, and contamination involving blood.

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Rule 265.191

(j) Lifeguard records. All training must be kept current. Records confirming the status of training must be made available upon request. If records are not kept on-site, records must be provided to DSHS or local regulatory authority within five business days of the request. The following records pertaining to lifeguards must be kept three years:

- (1) each lifeguard's certification, including the expiration date; and
- (2) records of the most current training, including date, length of training, training topic, trainer name, and attendee.

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(k) Lifeguard access to safety equipment. Lifeguards must have access to safety equipment including:

(1) an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) compliant, minimum 24-unit first aid kit housed in a durable weather-resistant container that is fully stocked and ready for use. The kit must include disease transmission barriers and cleaning kits meeting OSHA standards;

(2) at least one backboard equipped with a head immobilizer and sufficient straps to immobilize a person to the backboard located close enough to a pool or spa to enable a two-minute response time to an incident in a pool or spa.

(3) at least one portable AED and one BVM kept in a secure location that can be easily and quickly accessed by lifeguards or other trained personnel.

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Rule 265.191

(l) Lifeguard stands. OSHA-compliant lifeguard stands with platforms for lifeguards are required where water depth is greater than 5 feet and must have a protective umbrella or sunshade high enough to give lifeguards a complete and unobstructed view of the assigned area of surveillance for the lifeguards. Lifeguard stands and platforms must be located such that there are no hazards such as electrical wires directly overhead.

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Rule 265.191

(m) Personal lifeguard equipment. Each lifeguard must be provided with the following personal equipment:

- (1) uniform attire that readily identifies the lifeguard as a staff member and a lifeguard;
- (2) a rescue tube with attached rope or strap;
- (3) personal protective devices including a resuscitation mask with one-way valve and non-latex, non-powdered, single use disposable gloves worn in a hip pack or attached to the rescue tube; and
- (4) a whistle or other signaling device for communicating to users, other lifeguards, or staff.

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(n) Minimum lifeguard standards. The standards in this subsection are considered minimum standards. Pool owners or operators may require additional and more stringent lifeguard policies, procedures, staffing requirements, training requirements, and performance audits.

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Rule 265.192

(a) Fence or barrier required. All pool yards and spa yards must be completely enclosed by a fence, wall, or equivalent barrier that is durable and is not easily climbed. An enclosure can surround multiple pools and spas within an aquatic facility.

(1) Planters, light poles, and other structures and site furnishings must not be permitted within 36 inches, as measured horizontally, outside of the enclosure.

(2) Planters, light poles, and other structures and site furnishings inside the pool or spa enclosure must be constructed and placed such that the fence is not made easily climbable from outside the pool or spa enclosure.

(3) Tree limbs must be kept trimmed to prevent a tree or the limbs of the tree from being used by children to climb over the enclosure.

(4) Solid barriers that do not have openings must be smooth and not have any indentations or protrusions that could be used as a handhold or foothold except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints on the side away from the pool or spa.

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(b) Enclosures for Class A and Class B pools and spas and resident youth camp pools and spas. Enclosures for Class A and Class B pools and spas and resident youth camp pools and spas must meet the following requirements.

(1) Class A and B pools and spas and pools and spas at resident youth camps must have an enclosure consisting of a fence, portion of a building, wall or other durable enclosure, or an equivalent structure. Chain link material with a maximum opening of 1-3/4 inch mesh may be used for fencing at Class A, Class B, and residential youth camp pools and spas.

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(2) A building that serves as part of the enclosure must have doors or gates that open into the pool or spa yard only if:

(A) any doors or gates between the building and the pool or spa yard are for entry into a storage room, restroom, shower room, dressing room, or mechanical room adjacent to the pool or spa; and

(B) the room does not have any door or gate openings to the outside of the pool yard or spa yard enclosure.

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(3) The enclosure, including doors and gates, must be designed and constructed so that it cannot be easily climbed and:

(A) have a minimum effective perpendicular height of at least 6 feet as measured from the ground surface on the outside of the enclosure;

(B) have no openings in the enclosure, either through or under it, which would allow passage of a 4-inch sphere;

(C) have no horizontal mid-rail and be designed and constructed so that it cannot be readily climbed;

(D) have all doors and gates in the enclosure directly and continuously supervised by staff at the pool during hours of operation or locked to prevent unauthorized entry; and

(E) have no windows in the enclosure lower than 6 feet from the ground as measured from outside of the enclosure that can be opened.

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(4) Gates and doors of Class A, Class B, and resident youth camp pool and spa enclosures must open outward away from the pool or spa, be capable of being locked, and must be locked if the pool or spa is not open for use. The gate or door must be locked if the pool or spa is closed for repairs, hazards, weather related hazards, adding chemicals by hand, or any other condition that warrants closure of the pool or spa.

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(d) Enclosures for all other Class C and day camp pools and spas. A Class C or day camp pool or spa not subject to Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 757 must have an enclosure that complies with this subsection and, if applicable, subsection (h) of this section.

(1) The pool yard or spa yard enclosure must consist of one or a combination of a fence, portion of a building, wall, or other durable enclosure that meets the requirements of this section. The enclosure must comply with the following:

(A) The enclosure must have a minimum perpendicular height of at least 48 inches as measured from the ground surface on the outside of the enclosure.

(B) An enclosure with horizontal and vertical members constructed or replaced on or after January 1, 2021, must have no horizontal mid-rail and be constructed so that it cannot be easily climbed. The distance between horizontal members of the fence that is 48 inches in height must not be less than 45 inches.

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(C) Openings in, under, or through all enclosures at Class C and day camp pools and spas must not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.

(D) Chain link fencing material is prohibited for Class C pools and spas constructed on or after October 1, 1999. Pool and spa fences at Class C pools and spas constructed before October 1, 1999, that replace a chain link fence are prohibited from using chain link fencing material.

(E) Windows that are capable of being opened are not allowed as a part of a pool or spa enclosure unless those windows are above the required enclosure height as measured from the ground level outside of the pool enclosure, and have a maximum opening of 4 inches, or are provided with a non-removable screen.

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(F) Doors or gates of a building that are capable of being opened are not allowed as part of an enclosure unless:

(i) the doors or gates between the building and pool yard or spa yard are for entry into a storage room, restroom, shower room, dressing room, or mechanical room adjacent to the pool or spa;

(ii) the room does not have any door or gate openings to the outside of the pool yard or spa yard enclosure; or

(iii) the pool yard or spa yard is indoor and complies with the requirements of subsection (h) of this section.

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(2) Gates and doors of a pool or spa enclosure subject to this subsection must:

(A) be equipped with self-closing and self-latching devices meeting the definition in §265.182(62) of this subchapter (relating to Definitions);

(B) be designed to close and to keep the gate or door securely closed and latched whenever the gate or door is not in use;

(C) open outward away from the pool or spa;

(D) be capable of being locked and be locked if the pool or spa is not open for use; and

(E) be locked if the pool or spa is closed for repairs, hazards, weather-related hazards, adding chemicals by hand, or any other condition that warrants closure of the pool or spa.

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Rule 265.192

(3) Self-closing and self-latching devices on gates and doors of a pool or spa constructed on or after January 1, 2021, must:

(A) have hand-activated door- or gate-opening hardware located at least 3-1/2 feet above the deck or walkway; or

(B) have hand-activated door- or gate-opening hardware located on the pool yard side of the gate that is at least 3 inches below the top of the gate;

(C) have a gate or enclosure with no opening greater than 1/2 inch in any direction within 18 inches from the latch including the space between the gate and the gate post to which the gate latches; and

(D) have a gate latch that may be located 42 inches or higher above the ground if the gate cannot be opened except by key, card, or combination on both sides of the gate.

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- (e) Entry into pool yard or spa yard. Pool yard and spa yard enclosures must be constructed so that all persons will be required to pass through an enclosure gate or door to gain access to the pool or spa. All gates and doors exiting a pool or spa yard must open into a public area or walkway accessible by all users of the pool or spa.
- (f) Propping open gates prohibited. No gate or door into a pool yard or spa yard may be propped open or remain propped open unless an agent, employee, or contractor of the owner is present and doing construction, maintenance, or repair work in the pool yard or spa yard or on its enclosure that reasonably requires the gate to be propped open.

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(g) Service gates or doors. Service gates or doors at a Class A, Class B, or Class C facility used only by service personnel are not required to be self-closing and self-latching. Service gates and doors must not be used as a user entry or exit and must be kept securely closed and locked when not in actual use by service personnel entering or exiting the pool or spa yard. A service gate or door may include:

- (1) a gate or door used by chemical delivery services, facility maintenance services, and lawn and landscaping services; or
- (2) a door or service window used solely by food service staff from a food preparation area, bar, or snack bar.

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(h) Enclosures for pools and spas in a building. For pools and spas that are in a building, the interior or exterior building walls may be designated as the enclosure.

(1) Entry and exit gates or doors into the pool or spa located in a building must comply with the requirements for entry and exit gates and doors for Class A, Class B, or Class C pool and spa gates and doors in subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this section, as applicable.

(2) Elevator doors are not to be used as an entry or exit into the pool yard or spa yard when the pool or spa is inside a building or accessed from the interior of a building.

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(3) Where separate indoor and outdoor pools and spas are located at the same site, a door or gate may be provided between them if they comply with all the requirements in subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this section for Class A, Class B, and Class C pool and spa gates and doors, as applicable, except that if the gate or door between the indoor and outdoor pool or spa does not provide an exit from the pool or spa yard, that gate or door may open inward into the outdoor pool or spa yard.

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Texas Requirements for water quality are specific for different types of pools. Testing methodology and frequency are specified in Rule 265.193.

(o) Testing frequency and record keeping when pools and spas are open for use.

(1) When Class A and Class B pools and spas are open for use:

(A) Tests for disinfectant levels and pH must be made and recorded in pool or spa logs every two hours.

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Figure: 25 TAC §265.193(c)

Required Chemical Levels			
Disinfectant Level	Minimum	Ideal	Maximum
Pool Free Available Chlorine	1.0 ppm	2.0 – 3.0 ppm	8.0 ppm
Spa Free Available Chlorine	2.0 ppm	3.0 ppm	8.0 ppm
Pool Bromine	3.0 ppm	4.0 – 6.0 ppm	10.0 ppm
Spa Bromine	4.0 ppm	5.0 ppm	10.0 ppm
Combined Chlorine	None	None	0.4 ppm
pH	Not less than 7.0	7.2 – 7.6	7.8
Cyanuric Acid	None	30 – 50 ppm	100 ppm
ORP	600 mV	650 – 750 mV	900 mV
Alkalinity	60 ppm	60 ppm – 180 ppm	>180 ppm
Calcium Hardness in Pools	150 ppm	>150 – 400 ppm	1000 ppm
Calcium Hardness in Spas	100 ppm	150 – 400 ppm	800 ppm

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Texas Requirements for Operation and Management of Pools and Spas include operator certifications and compliance with Rule 265.194.

(b) Required operator certification. All Class A, Class B, and Class C pools and spas must be maintained under the supervision and direction of a properly trained and certified operator.

(1) The operator is not required to be on-site when the pool or spa is open.

(2) The operator may be responsible for multiple pools and spas.

(3) The trained and certified operator's name and contact information must be made available to on-site staff, such as lifeguards, and to property management companies or property managers, and must be made available at the request of DSHS or a local regulatory authority.

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- (a) DSHS or the local regulatory authority has the right to enter at all reasonable times any area or environment, including a building, storage, equipment room, bathhouse, or office to inspect and investigate for compliance with this subchapter, to review records, to question any person, or to locate, identify, and assess the condition of the pool or spa.
- (b) Advance notice or permission for entry is not required.
- (c) DSHS or the local regulatory authority must not be impeded or refused entry during its official duties by reason of any company policy.
- (d) It is a violation of this subchapter for a person to interfere with, deny, or delay an inspection or investigation conducted by DSHS or a local regulatory authority.

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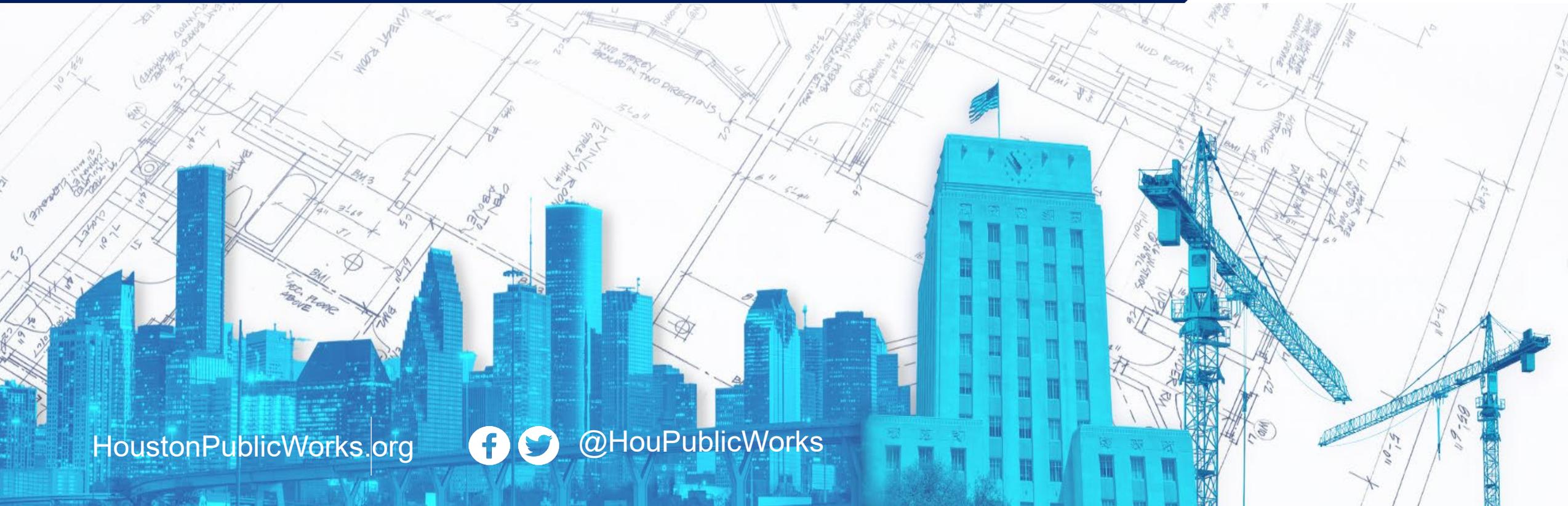
Subchapter L

Rule 265.198

- (a) If a person violates Texas Health and Safety Code, §341.064 or §341.0645 or this subchapter, DSHS or the local regulatory authority may, in accordance with Texas Health and Safety Code, §341.092, institute a civil suit in district court for the assessment of civil penalties, injunctive relief, or both.
- (b) A person who violates Texas Health Safety Code, §341.064 or §341.0645, or this subchapter may also be subject to a criminal penalty under Texas Health and Safety Code, §341.091.
- (c) If a pool or spa closes, either voluntarily or by court order, public access to the pool or spa must be restricted and a notice posted on the entry gates or doors.



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