

Madison County

BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

266-A SHIELDS ROAD HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35811

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Swimming Pool and Spa Barrier Requirements

(This document must be completed by the Property Owner)

When constructing a new, or altering an existing pool or spa, and the water depth exceeds 24 inches, the Pool Barrier Requirements per 2018 ICC ISPC – Chapter 305 are to be provided prior to filling the pool with water. This barrier is designed to restrict entry into areas having pools and spas. Once inspected and approved, all required pool safety features shall remain in place and be maintained in satisfactory condition to prevent unauthorized entry.

There are multiple options for gaining compliance with an effective barrier. A fence is the most common means of achieving this compliance pending the fence and gate meets all applicable code sections. Click [here](#) or search for “2018 ICC ISPC Section 305” and read section 305.1 through 305.7. Spas and swimming pools that are equipped with a lockable safety cover or powered safety cover complying with ASTM F1346 are NOT required to comply the remaining barrier requirements.

Section 305.2 **Outdoor swimming pools and spa barrier requirements** - explains the requirements for different types of materials and conditions used for an effective barrier. It includes barrier heights, openings, solid barrier surfaces, mesh fences, closely spaced horizontal members, widely spaced horizontal members, chain link dimensions, diagonal members, clear zone around the barrier, and pool side barrier setbacks.

Section 305.3 **Gates for barrier requirements** - explains installation of gates that lead through the required barrier.

Section 305.4 **Structure wall as a barrier** - if the wall of a building is used as portion of the barrier requirement this section applies. Included in this section is a requirement for an audible warning when a window or door are opened leading into the pool area, these alarms are to be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2017.

Section 305.5 **Onground residential pool structure as a barrier** – In residential applications, an “above ground” or onground pool has special provisions for an approved barrier and lists 5 areas of compliance items, if all are applicable then the walls of the onground pool will suffice as an approved barrier.

Section 305.6 **Natural barriers** – explains that there are cases where a natural barrier exist and are permitted to be used as a portion to the compliant barrier.

Section 305.7 **Natural topography** – explains the use of natural topography preventing direct access being used as a portion to the compliant barrier.

I have read the 2018 ICC ISPC barrier requirements (Click [here](#)), I will install and maintain the required restricted entry barrier as defined by the code.

Property Owner: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Building Permit #: _____

In Office Witness _____

(or) Out of Office Notary _____