

## **SWIMMING POOL, SPA, AND HOT TUB BARRIERS**

(GENERAL REQUIREMENTS)

### GENERAL

The following is an overview of Article 2.5 of **The Swimming Pool Safety Act**. This information is taken from Sections 115920-115927 of the Health and Safety Code and will be enforced whenever a construction permit is issued for a new pool, spa, etc. at a private, single-family home. Per SB 442, the single-family home shall be equipped with at least **TWO** of the following safety features (**select two**):

- An enclosure that meets the requirements of Section 115923 and isolates the swimming pool or spa from the private single-family home.
- Removable mesh fencing that meets American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Specifications F2286 standards in conjunction with a gate that is self-closing and self-latching and can accommodate a key lockable device.
- An approved safety pool cover, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 115921.
- Exit alarms on the private single-family home's doors that provide direct access to the swimming pool or spa. The exit alarm may cause either an alarm noise or a verbal warning, such as a repeating notification that "the door to the pool is open."
- A self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor on the private single-family home's doors providing direct access to the swimming pool or spa.
- An alarm that, when placed in a swimming pool or spa, will sound upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. The alarm shall meet and be independently certified to the ASTM Standard F2208 "Standard Safety Specification for Residential Pool Alarms," which includes surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser, and infrared type alarms. A swimming protection alarm feature designed for individual use, including an alarm attached to a child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water, is not a qualifying drowning prevention safety feature.
- Other means of protection, if the degree of protection afforded is equal to or greater than that afforded by any of the features set forth above and has been independently verified by an approved testing laboratory as meeting standards for those features established by the ASTM or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

Before the issuance of a final approval for the completion of permitted construction or remodeling work, the local building code official shall inspect the two selected drowning safety prevention features required by this section and, if no violations are found, shall give final approval. All requirements except the wave alarm shall be completed prior to sign-off of the pre-plaster inspection. Wave alarms will be inspected after the pool is filled.

I certify that I have read these requirements and agree to comply with the applicable sections of this law.

*María Valderrama*

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Applicant  
**ENCLOSURE DESIGN**

- Any access gates through the enclosure shall open away from the swimming pool. These gates shall be self-closing with self-latching devices placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground. In many cases, RV gates do not meet these requirements.
- A minimum height of 60 inches.
- A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of two inches.
- Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow the passage of a sphere equal to or greater than four inches in diameter.
- An outside surface free of protrusions, cavities, or other physical characteristics that would serve as handholds or footholds that could enable a child below the age of five years to climb over. Chain link fences shall be provided with slats suitably held in place.

### GLAZING IN HAZARDOUS LOCATIONS

- Hazardous location provisions of Section 2406 now apply to glazing in walls and fences enclosing swimming pools and spas.
- All following conditions must apply:
  - Bottom edge of glazing is less than 60 inches above the pool/spa decking.
  - Glazing at or within 5 feet of swimming pool or spa intended for pedestrian traffic.
- Provision applies to lights of any size.

