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No. 107

Rev 03/09

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# SWIMMING POOL SAFETY ACT



## Health and Safety Code Section 115922.:

(a). Commencing January 1, 2007, except as provided in Section 115925, whenever a building permit is issued for construction of a new swimming pool or spa, or any building permit is issued for remodeling of an existing pool or spa, at a private, single family home, it shall be equipped with at least one of the following seven drowning prevention safety features:

1. The pool shall be isolated from access to a home by an enclosure that meets the requirements of Section 115923.

2. The pool shall incorporate removable mesh pool fencing that meets American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Specifications F 2286 standards in conjunction with a gate that is self closing and self latching and can accommodate a key lockable device

3. The pool shall be equipped with an approved safety pool cover that meets all requirements of the ASTM Specifications F 1346.

4. The residence shall be equipped with exit alarms on those doors providing direct access to the pool.

5. All doors providing direct access from the home to the swimming pool shall be equipped with a self closing, self latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor.

6. Swimming pool alarms that, when placed in pools, will sound upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. These pool alarms shall meet and be independently certified to the ASTM Standard F 2208 "Standards Specification for Pool Alarms" which includes surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser, and infrared type alarms. For purposes of this article, "swimming pool alarms" shall not include swimming protection alarm devices designed for individual use, such as an alarm attached to a child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water.

7. Other means of protection, if the degree of protection afforded is equal to or greater than that afforded by any of the devices set forth above, and have been independently verified by an approved testing laboratory as meeting standards for those devices established by the ASTM or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

(b). Prior to issuance of any final approval for the completion of permitted construction or remodeling work, the local building code official shall inspect the drowning safety prevention devices required by this act and if no violations are found, shall give final approval.

**Health and Safety Code Section 115923.:**

An enclosure shall have all of the following characteristics:

- (a). Any access gates through the enclosure open away from the swimming pool, and are self closing with a self latching device placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground.
- (b). A minimum height of 60 inches.
- (c). A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of two inches.
- (d). Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than four inches in diameter.
- (e). An outside surface free of protrusions, cavities, or other physical characteristics that would serve as hand holds or footholds that could enable a child below the age of five years to climb over.

**Health and Safety Code Section 115928.:**

Whenever a building permit is issued for the construction of a new swimming pool or spa, the pool or spa shall meet all of the following requirements:

- (a) (1) The suction outlet of the pool or spa for which the permit is issued shall be equipped to provide Circulation throughout the pool or spa as prescribed in paragraph (2).
- (2). The swimming pool or spa shall have at least two circulation drains per pump that shall be hydraulically balanced and symmetrically plumbed through one or more “T” fittings, and that are separated by a distance of at least three feet in any dimension between the drains.
- (b). Suction outlets that are less than 12 inches across shall be covered with anti-entrapment grates, as specified in the ASME/ANSI Standard A 112.19.8, that cannot be removed except with the use of tools. Slots or openings in the grates or similar protective devices shall be of a shape, area, and arrangement that would prevent physical entrapment and would not pose any suction hazard to bathers.
- (c). Any backup safety system that an owner of a new swimming pool or spa may choose to install in addition to the requirements set forth in subdivisions (a) and (b) shall meet the standards as published in the document, “Guidelines for Entrapment Hazards: Making Pools and Spas Safer,” Publication No. 363, March 2005, United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**Health and Safety Code Section 115928.5.:**

Whenever a building permit is issued for the remodel or modification of an existing swimming pool, toddler pool, or spa, the permit shall require that the suction outlet of the existing swimming pool, Toddler pool, or spa be upgraded so as to be equipped with an anti-entrapment cover meeting current Standards if the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).