

Florida Building Commission nears completion of 2010 Code Cycle

by Jennifer Hatfield, FSPA Government Affairs Consultant

The Florida Building Commission met December 7-8 in Melbourne for its last meeting of the year. In addition to addressing regular meeting items, the commissioners met in a rule development workshop to make final decisions on recommendations given by the Technical Advisory Committee on all proposals and comments submitted for adoption into the 2010 Florida Building Code.

The Florida Swimming Pool Association made a number of code proposals this year, as well as providing a number of public comments on proposals made by others regarding swimming pools and spas. In the end, all of the FSPA proposals and suggested edits to other proposals were adopted. This marks another successful code cycle for the Association.

A summary of the changes to the 2010 Code include the following:

- Energy efficient language for pools and spas that implement the legislative mandate (House Bill 663) and provide additional clarifications to the energy requirements. These changes will be found in the Florida Energy Conservation Code, not in the sections contractors typically find pool/spa requirements. The changes include:
 - Pool and spa energy efficiency heating requirements that follow the federal requirements manufacturers of these products already must meet,
 - Residential filtration pump and motor requirements (minimum two-speed if installing a pump or motor 1 HP or greater),
 - Portable spa energy efficiency requirements,
 - Removed an unenforceable portion of the pool/spa cover requirements and provide for additional means to come into compliance, and
 - Appendices that provide additional criteria to implement the new energy requirements for residential pools and in-ground spas, and portables spas based on the draft APSP Energy Standards.
- An exception to panic hardware requirements found in Chapter 10 of the Building Code was provided, allowing outdoor gates from residential and commercial swimming pools or pool decks to go without such devices unless the pool deck serves as a portion of the means of egress of a building or has an occupant load of 300 or greater.
- Clean-up language to the barrier alarm requirements found in Chapter 41 of the Residential Code and in Section 424.2 of the Building Code (updated the UL Standard that alarms must meet to the most recent version and made changes to language that was inconsistent with the UL Standard).
- Clarification language to prevent adding the building fixture count to the pool fixture count when determining the number of fixtures required for commercial swimming pools that only serve a designated group of dwelling units and that is not for use by the general public.
- Addition of provisions (found in the International Codes) for pools in a flood hazard area.
- NEW requirements for existing residential pools & spas. These changes will be found in the Florida Existing Building Code, not in the sections contractors typically find pool/spa requirements. These changes include:
 - Specifically requiring pool or spa circulation systems or components undergoing alteration to comply with Section 6 of the ANSI/APSP-7 Suction Entrapment Avoidance Standard,

- Providing broad guidance that any pool or spa component or system undergoing alterations (not repair) comply with Chapter 41 of the Residential Code (the residential pool section). However, in order to ensure certain alterations would not trigger Chapter 41 compliance requirements, the following exceptions were provided for:
 - Installation of pavers or coating to an existing pool or spa deck,
 - Re-tiling a pool or spa,
 - Re-plastering or re-lining a pool or spa, **except the drain cover must comply with the 2007 ASME A112.19.8 Standard,**
 - Installation of a water filtration or sanitizations component or system,
 - Installation of an automation or a time switch component or system, and
 - Installation of a heating component or system.
- The exceptions laid out do not trigger the existing building code pool/spa requirements. The FSPA will continue to be looking into the existing pool/spa requirements and a detailed discussion will occur at the January Board and Committee meetings.

Next Steps/Code Effective Date: Florida Building Commission staff will now work to insert all changes into the 2010 Code. A supplement format of the code will be available to review for accuracy in the beginning of January. If any party requests a rule adoption hearing on any part of the revised code, it would be held at the end of January. The rule adopting the new code will then be submitted to the 2011 Legislature for approval. The 2010 Florida Building Code will go into effect **December 31, 2011.**

*****Important to note:*** The Glitch Fix Cycle begins in March. Glitch amendments have to be submitted by March 18. The goal is for any glitches to be fixed and adopted into the 2010 Code prior to print in October 2011 and the new code going into effect December 31, 2011. If any pool/spa glitches are needed, FSPA will have a chance to do so prior to the new code going into effect.