

Final Changes to Pool and Spa Energy Efficient Requirements Adopted by the FBC – what you need to know to be ready

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On Tuesday, June 7, the Florida Building Commission (FBC) held their rule adoption hearing on proposed glitch amendments to the 2010 Florida Building Code. FSPA submit several amendments, all of which were adopted. These amendments made final changes to the new energy efficient requirements for pools and spas, which are found in the Florida Energy & Efficiency Code. The 2010 code is slated to take effect December 31, 2011. House Bill 849, the building code bill, must also be signed into law for the building code to take effect – the Governor received the bill on June 13, to find out whether or not the bill became law go to www.FloridaPoolPro.biz/govtrelations/2011Leg.html.

It is important that the industry recognize that HB 849 changed the effective date of the new pool pump and motor requirements from July 1 to December 31, to correspond with the building code effective date. The new energy efficient requirements that apply to both new and existing construction provide the following:

- Prohibit split-phase, shaded-pole or capacitor start-induction run type pump motors.
- Require pool pumps and pump motors with a total horsepower of 1HP or greater to have the capability of operating at two or more speeds.
- Require pool pump motor controls for use with a two-speed or greater pump have the capability of operating the pool pump at a minimum of two speeds.

The code also requires new construction to comply with APSP-14 for portable spas and APSP-15 for residential pools and inground spas. Portable spa manufacturers should be able to provide that their product complies with APSP-14. Pool contractors will need to obtain the APSP-15 Standard to ensure compliance with this standard; it will be available for purchase by the end of September. The APSP-15 standard, in addition to the pump, motor, and control requirements (as well as heating requirements that are currently in effect in the 2007 code), provides additional requirements for new construction that address: maximum filtration flow rate, pool filter pump sizing, system piping, filter sizing, backwash valves, solar connections, and directional inlet fittings.

FSPA has developed classes on the energy efficient requirements as well as documentation that can be found www.FloridaPoolPro.biz/energy.html. The energy page also includes a consumer-friendly brochure that explains the benefits of these energy efficient pumps and motors. We encourage everyone to be prepared for these new requirements.