

What were we thinking?

By Adam Alstott, Tropical Pools

While taking some time off from the FSPA, I have come to realize that to do so is impossible because this industry is always under attack. Sometimes it's hard to see the big picture, although we have people in place to control our own destiny; I know that our representatives are volunteers, with their own businesses to operate, and I truly appreciate their time dedicated to the cause.

As for the APSP-15 standard, I feel we all turned a blind eye because it is regarding energy conservation. We assumed all energy legislation or standards, and the standard writers without the input of a builder, took advantage of us sleeping at the wheel so to speak. The problem is the more standards (currently 14 in all with more on the horizon) written, the more eyes required to review these documents with a magnifying glass. We should not rush the adoption of these top-down, manufacturer-written standards in draft form when they are designed to sell specific products, listed in databases that do not exist. There wasn't a single pool builder listed on the writing committee for APSP-15, and although we did have input, no one did the math. Now certain people want the standard removed from the code; that ship has sailed.

The confusion lies within the standards. The energy standard requires lower pipe velocities than an entrapment standard, and even worse, nobody put these standards to a real-world test before accepting the standard into the Florida Building Code. And shame on these manufacturers for using standards as a way to sell product. Florida is the only state that has adopted three standards all with different pipe velocities; maybe the writers should take a bite out of Apple and unify the standards, like apple did with the iOS platform.

The ANSI standards are fragmented. The pool industry wants energy efficiency; I want a pool pump that will operate with a solar panel mounted on the top of the pump. I think these standards should be written by the people who have to make it practical in the real world; a.k.a. pool builders. I understand that it takes time and that pool builders have to pay themselves to sit on the ANSI writing committees. We must have pool builders on these ANSI standard national writing committees! We have the responsibility to our customers to protect them from unnecessary cost of variable speed pumps on a simple pool that does not require anything more than a 1/4 Hp to operate. If we are not careful we are going to legislate ourselves out of business. It kills me that Republicans want legislation when it benefits their business. Our great capitalistic economy is so corrupted by lobbyists controlling our congressman, and congressman writing laws that exempt themselves; well, I will leave that for another article.