

**International Code Council unanimously upholds adoption of the ANSI/APSP-7**  
by Jennifer Hatfield

The International Code Council (ICC) held its 2012 code development hearings in Baltimore, Maryland October 24 through November 11. These were the first round of hearings and final action hearings will be held in 2010. Code proposals were submitted to amend both the International Residential and International Building Codes with regard to suction entrapment avoidance. The 2009 IRC and IBC require pools and spas to comply with the ANSI/APSP-7 Suction Entrapment Avoidance Standard, consistent with the Florida Building Code. The proposals submitted by the Pool Safety Council attempted to change the code language to also require either an SVRS or gravity drainage system on all pools, even those with multiple or unblockable drains. These proposals were in direct conflict with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act and the ANSI/APSP-7 standard which call for additional devices only on single blockable drains. In addition, this proposal excluded other additional devices and mechanisms the VGB Pool & Spa Safety Act and ANSI/APSP-7 allow. The IRC rejected the proposal by an 11-0 vote and the IBC concurred with a 12-0 vote to uphold the adoption of the ANSI/APSP-7 standard.

In addition to the hearings, the ICC annual conference and expo also took place in Baltimore. ICC members were encouraged by the fact the ICC, in conjunction with the APSP, will be developing a new ICC pool and spa code. The drafting committee will be finalized in the coming months and FSPA continues to encourage positive consideration of the Florida pool and spa code as it develops this new code.

**CPSC hearing on unblockable drains** by Jennifer Hatfield

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) held a public hearing at their Bethesda, Maryland offices on November 4. At the CPSC hearings APSP staff and volunteers as well as others in the pool/spa industry presented information to help CPSC staff write guidance on the unblockable drain definition in the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act. When finished, this will help pool professionals efficiently comply with VGBA. In the CPSC draft guidance document an unblockable drain is defined as an 18 x 23 opening with a 29 inch diagonal. The FSPA and APSP position prefers using the performance mechanism laid out in the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 drain cover standard rather than this prescriptive definition. The CPSC is taking into consideration the testimony it heard and will issue a response accordingly. To watch an archive of the CPSC Hearing on Unblockable Drains, go to [www.cpsc.gov/webcast/previous.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/webcast/previous.html).