

Fort Worth Environmental Services Department

Plan Review Checklist for Public Swimming Pools and Spas

Definitions:

- Class A pool – Any pool used, with or without a fee, for accredited competitive aquatic events. A “Class A” competition pool may be used for recreation.
- Class B pool – Any pool used for public recreation and open to the general public with or without a fee.
- Class C pool – Any pool operated for and in conjunction with lodgings such as hotels, motels, apartments, condominiums, mobile home parks, property owners’ associations, clubs, etc. or a school, college or university while being operated for academic or continuing education classes or clubs or practice events (excluding competition events). The use of such a pool would be open to occupants, members or students, etc. and their guests but not open to the general public.
- Spa -A body of water intended for the immersion of persons in either hot or cold water, circulated in a closed system, and not intended to be drained and refilled after each use. A spa can include a filter, heater, a pump or pumps, blowers and water sanitizing equipment. The term includes a swim spa or exercise spa.

The attached requirements represent minimum health code requirements and are not considered all inclusive of all requirements.

A new facility shall be required to meet the applicable construction standard that is most restrictive to its use. Additionally, all State and Local requirements must be met before a health permit is issued for operation.

Any alteration of plans may result in non-compliance with Fort Worth Environmental Services Department codes.

Submission and Review of Plans:

___ Prior to beginning the construction of a new public swimming pool/spa or the extensive remodeling of an existing public swimming pool/spa, the owner shall submit plans and specifications for such construction or remodeling to the Department of Development Services and the Environmental Services Department, Consumer Health Division for review.

___ Plans and specifications must indicate the following:

1. Plan of entire project site/tract map
2. Plot plan, deck detail and pool enclosure (including gate detail and fence panels)
3. Plumbing detail, including gauges and pipe diameter etc.
4. Pool/Spa structure details
 - a. depth markers
 - b. lights
 - c. skimmers
 - d. coping
 - e. fill line and/or applicable hose bibbs
5. Equipment list (including make and model number)
6. Safety equipment and signs

___ The plans and specifications shall be submitted and stamped with the seal of a professional engineer.

___ A pre-construction letter stamped by the engineer shall also be submitted with the plans for review.

___ A copy of the plans and specifications and the plan review checklist must be kept at the site during the time of construction.

Time and Limitations on Construction/ Remodeling:

___ Remodeling or new construction must begin and end in accordance with the time limits of the project's building permit.

___ If the proposed remodeling or new construction is not initiated or completed and approved by the former departments before the expiration of the project's building permit, plans must be resubmitted with the then-existing plan review fee.

Inspection of Facilities by Environmental Services Department:

___ Contact the plan examiner at (817) 392-7255 to schedule a **pre-gunite inspection**. The inspector will verify proper drain installation.

___ Contact the plan examiner at (817) 392-7255 to schedule a **pre-plaster inspection**. The inspector will verify proper step, tile and depth installation.

___ Contact the plan examiner at (817) 392-7255 to schedule a **preliminary inspection** at least seven days before construction is completed.

___ Contact the plan examiner at (817) 392-7255 to schedule a **final inspection** to permit the facility.

Permit Fees:

___ The facility may not operate until **all permit fees have been paid** and the health permit has been issued. This includes all new construction and change of ownerships.

Alterations to Plans:

___ Before any alterations are made to the submitted and approved plans you must contact the plan examiner for approval. (817) 392-7255

Plumbing/ Electrical Work/ Mechanical Facilities & Structures:

___ All plumbing, electrical work, mechanical facilities, and structures for the public swimming pool and spa shall meet or exceed all applicable requirements of chapter 7, "Buildings"; chapter 11, "Electricity"; and chapter 26, "plumbing"; of the Code of the City of Fort Worth, Texas. Contact the Development Services Department at (817) 392-2222.

Pool Backwash:

___ Plumbing facilities will be installed so that swimming pool and spa filter backwash is deposited into the sanitary sewer to be filtered and recycled in a manner approved by the Director of the Water department. Contact the Water Department at (817) 392-4477.

___ Diatomaceous Earth (DE) filters are required to filter the backwash water through an approved separation tank.

___ No direct connection between the pool's drainage discharge and the sewage system is permitted. All wastewater must be discharged through an indirect waste connection. An air gap at least two times the diameter of the discharge pipe is required.

Document the Following:

___ Capacity of pool/spa in gallons _____.

___ Surface area of pool/spa _____.

___ Turnover rate for the pool is _____ hours.

___ The turnover rate of the spa is _____ minutes.

___ Minimum number of required skimmers _____. Number of skimmers on the plan _____.

___ Minimum number of return inlets required _____. Number of return inlets on the plan _____.

Pool Operator's Certification:

____ If a trained pool operator is not employed on-site at the public swimming pool or spa, the owner shall post signs at all entrances to the pool stating the telephone number of the trained pool operator. The letters in such signs shall be of a minimum height of one inch and shall be of a color contrasting to their background and state: “To report mechanical, safety or water quality problems with the pool, call ____ - ____ during pool hours.”

References:

Municipal Code of the City of Fort Worth, Chapter 16, Article XVIII, “Public Swimming Pools and Spas”
Texas Department of State Health Services, “Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapter 265, Subchapter L Public Swimming Pools and Spas” 2024

(*** Indicate information is for builder)

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC POOL AND SPAS**

CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS/PERMITTING PROCESS	
Copy of approved plans/specifications kept on site during the time of construction	
Static hydraulic pressure test completed prior to deck pour.	
Construction fencing required at time of excavation ≥ 4 ft for pool area until permanent barrier	
Building/Consumer Health inspections completed prior to gunite application/cement pour.	
Before gunite pour, temporary or permanent fencing required to isolate excavation	
Permanent, non-climbable, compliant fencing required before pre-plaster	
Post-gunite/pre-plaster inspections complete	
Pre-permit inspection (after plaster)	
Submitted engineer's Post-Construction Certification Letter, signed and sealed	
Plumbing schematic posted in equipment room, written operational instructions provided	
Final construction approved and permit secured prior to operation.	

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN ISPSC Sec 307-308	Plans
Interior surfaces shall be smooth, watertight, easily cleanable, non-toxic, durable	
Industry standard materials used for pool/spa construction	
NSF Standard 50 conformances proven for equipment	
Earth not permitted as interior basin finish. Sand use must meet requirements	
Interior surface colors and finishes at least 6.5 or lighter on Munsell scale	
Colors/patterns/finishes shall not obscure objects/surfaces within the pool/spa	
Pools/Spas/ Appurtenances designed to protect against damage from freezing	
Hydrostatic relief valve or system installed to prevent damage from ground water	
Interior footing surface shall be slip resistant	
Basin design free of entrapment and other hazards	
Pool shall be built in accordance with permitted construction tolerances	
Walls intersect floor at angle/transitional radius.	
At depths ≤ 3 ft, transitional radius $< 6''$, tangent to wall, tangent/intersect floor	
Slope of floor in depth < 5 ft. shall not exceed 1 foot in 10 feet to point of 1st slope change	
Slope of floor in depth ≥ 5 ft. shall not exceed 1 foot in 3 feet	
Slope of floor may vary in limited areas where access for persons with disabilities provided	
Slope of floor for spa shall not exceed 1:12. Depth change indicated on multilevel floors.	
Floor slope in only Class A pools determined by the accrediting authority for competition	
Visual separation (solid 4 inch band) for water < 3 ft. in depth from deeper areas.	

VANISHING EDGE (Ref 2021 State Pool Rules)	Plans
Vanishing edge overflow trough/basin/capture drain not counted as a skimmer	
Skimmers not required when 100% of pool/spa is vanishing edge	
Shall not exceed $> 50\%$ or entire perimeter unless pool surrounded by approved deck	
No part of the vanishing edge > 15 ft. distance from deck	
Designed to overflow into a trough/basin/capture drain	

UNDERWATER SEATING 2021 ISPSC Sec. 411.5	Plans
Horizontal surface not greater than 20" below design water level	
Unobstructed seating surface, minimum 10" depth	
Seating surface not less than 24" width	
Located outside diving envelope	
Visually separated by 1-inch solid or broken stripe.	
Must have a slip-resistant surface	
Shall not be used as required entry/exit access	

WATER LOUNGES 2021 ISPSC Sec. 411.5.2	Plans
Designed as a water lounge or sunning area and not as a wading pool	
Depth 12 inches below water level	
Visually set apart by a 1-inch solid or broken stripe on leading edge of bench, contrast color	
Located outside of diving envelope	
Have slip-resistant surface	
Be located in shallow areas of the pool only	

UNDERWATER TOE LEDGES/REST LEDGES 2021 ISPSC Sec. 404.1, 610.7	Plans
Must be slip-resistant	
Only provided in water ≥ 5 ft. and at least 4 ft. below water level	
Visually set apart by a 1-inch solid or broken stripe on leading edge of bench, contrast color	
Uniform horizontal tread depth of 4-6"	

BULKHEADS (Ref 2021 State Pool Rules)	Plans
Cannot encroach on required clearances of other features such as diving boards.	
If operated with open area underneath, users prevented from swimming underneath	

ISLANDS AND BRIDGES (Ref 2021 State Pool Rules)	Plans
Island < 18 " width not designed for walking on has no user accessible stairs/ladders/bridges	
Island designed to be walked on by lifeguards, minimum 18" width entire length of island	
Island not designed/intended for walking on by users—signs stating "No Entry", 2" letters	
Island designed for pool/spa users accessible by bridge/ramp/ladder/stairway	
Bridges have minimum clearance of 7' from bottom of pool and 4' above water surface	
Bridges/ramps has minimum 42" high barrier on both sides of bridge/ramp	
Demarcation tile minimum 4" height, on top 4.5" of island wall just under coping	

DECKS ISPSC 2021 Sec. 306, 406.1-406.5	Plans
Entries/exits/walkways/decks/etc. comply with accessibility/disability access laws.	
Concrete installed compliant to ACI Standard 302.1R-15, local building codes, engineering	
Non-concrete decks designed/installed in accordance with good public health engineering practice and local building codes	
Decks/ramps/coping/steps/etc shall be slip resistant	
Continuous and unobstructed circulation path providing in conformance with ADA	
Pool/spa deck may serve as part of the circulation path	
Decks between pools/spas must have minimum width of six feet	

Class A pool decks must conform to sanctioning body's requirements.	
Class B pool decks - ≥ 6 ft. wide, unobstructed	
Class C pool/spa decks - ≥ 6 ft. wide, unobstructed	
Diving Platforms/Structures/Etc.—unobstructed deck - ≥ 4 ft. wide	
Decks shall be sloped to drain to perimeter areas or to deck drains	
Drainage slopes for deck surfaces in compliance with 2021 ISPSC	
Drainage removes water without leaving 1/8" standing water after 20 minutes	
Maximum gaps between decks/walkways/adjoining decks $\leq 3/4$ "	
Difference in vertical elevation between deck and circulation path $\leq 1/4$ "	
Isolation joints provided/installed to be water tight/prevent damage/in compliance with rules	
Edges of decks shall be radiused, tapered, or designed to eliminate sharp corners	
Deck step risers shall be uniform, height $3 3/4$ " to $7 1/2$ ", tread distance ≥ 11 "	
Decks with 3 or more risers shall be provided with a handrail	
Valves/etc. under decks accessible/provided with slip-resistant, secured access cover(s)	
Hose bibs with backflow prevention provided for rinsing entire deck, not >150 feet apart	
Water powered equipment shall have dedicated hose bib water source or valve	

ENTRY/EXIT 2021 ISPSC Sec. 411	Plans
Minimum 2 entry/exits: 1 at shallow end, 1 at deep end. (Some exceptions—see pages 25-26)	
Spas required to have minimum of one entry/exit.	
Entry/exit structures and devices for persons with disability not counted.	
Areas with water depths ≤ 24 " considered natural entry/exit, except wading pools	
Pools with water depth >24 ", entry/exits ≤ 75 ft. travel distance from other entry/exits	
Deep end entry/exits must be steps/stairs/ladder/grab rails with recessed treads/ramps/beach entry/swim out meeting requirements	
If deep end is $>30'$ wide, entry/exit required on each side and $\leq 82'$ linear feet apart	
Entry/exits and other features must be located outside of diving envelope	
Stairs, steps, ladders, and recessed treads shall have slip-resistant surfaces	

BEACH/ZERO-DEPTH/SLOPING ENTRY/EXIT 2021 ISPSC Sec. 411.3, 610.4	Plans
Exceptions for beach entries in wave/surf/vortex/activity pools, PIWFs, and leisure rivers	
Slopes of beach entries used as required entry/exits shall not exceed 1:10	
For benches: vertical riser height shall not exceed 12 inches	
For steps: Must be compliant with rules for steps	
Trench drains required at waterline to facilitate surface skimming, flat or follow slope of entry	

STEPS/STAIRS 2021 ISPSC Sec 411.2	Plans
Tread depth (horizontal run) ≥ 10 inches, unobstructed	
Tread width ≥ 24 inches, unobstructed surface area ≥ 240 "	
Riser height ≤ 12 inches (bottom riser may taper to zero)	
Vertical distance from coping/deck/etc. to uppermost tread ≤ 12 "	
If stairs in water depths >48 ", lowest tread lower than 48 " below deck, recessed into wall	
Solid/broken visible contrasting warning strip ≥ 1 in to 2 in underwater steps, slip-resistant	
Step handrails required at any pools with lifeguard mandate.	
Handrails corrosion-resistant, cannot be removed without tools; treads slip-resistant	

HANDRAILS 2021 ISPSC Sec. 323.2	Plans
Handrails compliant with federal/state/local requirements for accessibility	
Top gripping surface of handrails 34-38" above ramp/step surface	
Leading edge of handrails for stairs/entries/exits within 18" of vertical face bottom riser	
Outside handrail diameter from 1.25-2 inches	

LADDERS 2021 ISPSC Sec. 322.3	Plans
Corrosion-resistant, anchored securely to deck, bonded in accordance with NEC	
Handrail on each side of ladder treads.	
Ladder handrail distance is between 17 inches to 24 inches.	
Uniform distance between ladder treads is 7 inches to 12 inches.	
Maximum vertical distance from coping to top tread is 12 inches.	
Ladder step tread minimum horizontal depth of ≥ 2 inches.	
Wall clearance between pool/spa wall and ladder 3-4 inches	
Ladder treads slip-resistant	

RECESSED TREADS 2021 ISPSC Sec. 322.4.1-3	Plans
Maximum vertical distance from coping to top tread is 12 inches.	
Step depth ≥ 5 inches.	
Step width ≥ 12 inches.	
Uniform vertical spacing of 7-12" between treads, measured from centerlines	
Slip-resistant, easily cleaned, drain into the pool or spa.	
Handrails/ grab rails on each side of tread	

STARTING PLATFORMS 2021 ISPSC Sec. 406.9, 402	Plans
Located at water depth of ≥ 5 ft. or meet requirements of accrediting body for competition	
Platforms intended for non-sanctioned events be located at water depth of ≥ 4.5 ft.	
Platforms at Class A pools comply with requirements of accrediting body for competition	
Tread surfaces of platforms slip-resistant	
Platforms installed/secured per manufacturer's instructions	
Only used during competition or when direct supervision from coach/qualified instructor	
Removed or secured when use is not directly supervised	

SWIMOUTS 2021 ISPSC Sec. 411.5.1, 610.6.1-4	Plans
Located completely outside water current/wave action	
Unobstructed horizontal surface, horizontal depth of ≥ 11 inches	
Unobstructed surface area of tread ≥ 240 inches ²	
The horizontal surface ≤ 20 in below waterline	
If used as entry/exit, steps compliant with rules for steps Sec 411.2	
The leading edge has a visual stripe 3/4in -2in wide	

WADING POOLS Sec.405 table 608.1	Plans
Maximum depth no greater than 18 inches.	
15 ft. setback from shallow end of pool or enclosed by fencing.	
35 ft. setback from deep end of pool or enclosed by fencing.	
Clear visibility through barrier required if enclosed by fencing.	

No submerged suction outlets. Skimmers/overflow gutters handle 100% circ. flow rate	
If edge has areas >9" depth, those areas not considered entry/exits	
If edge has areas >9" depth, floors shall be uniform, slip-resistant, max slope 1 foot/12 feet	
If edge has areas >9" depth, vertical distance from deck/walkway to pool bottom ≤18"	
If edge has areas >9" depth, slope of zero level deck entries shall not exceed 1 foot/12 feet	

DIVING FACILITIES 2021 ISPSC Sec 402 ref Table 402.12 and Figure 402.12	Plans
Diving requirements follow section 402	

WATERSLIDES 2021 ISPSC Sec 406.10	Plans
Installed according to manufacturer's instructions/licensed engineer's specifications	
Planned and designed by a licensed engineer if not pre-manufactured	
Comply with 16CFR, part 1207	

WAVE POOLS 2021 ISPSC Sec 605.3	Plans
Must be fitted with rope/float line to restrict access to caisson wall if manufacturer requires	
Caisson barriers required, shall have no openings that allow passage of a 4" sphere	

LEISURE POOLS (Ref 2021 State Code, ISPSC 2018)	Plans
Handrails for steps/propulsion jets shall not protrude into the leisure river	
Obstructions allowed on deck if they do not impact lifeguarding/sight lines/rescue operations	
Bridges spanning leisure rivers have minimum clearance of 7' from bottom of river and 4' above water surface to any structure overhead	
Depth markers required at all entry/exits to leisure river but not along, in the landscape, where there is no deck, or in the channel	
May have limited entry/exit access to the water for users, do not require entry/exit every 75 ft.	

SPAS 2021 ISPSC Sec. 503-504.2	Plans
Maximum water depth for spas shall be 4 feet as measured from design water level	
Maximum water depth for exercise spas shall not exceed 6 feet 6 inches	
Maximum water depths of seats/sitting benches 28" from design water line to deepest point	
Spa decks minimum 6 feet wide, comply with all other requirements for decks	
Continuous, unobstructed deck provided for at least 50% of spa perimeter	
Emergency shutoff switch to disconnect power to circulation/jet system pumps & air blowers	
Emergency switches accessible to users, within sight of spa, located 5-10 feet from spa	
Emergency shutoff shall have an audible and light alarm	
Air induction systems installed to manufacturer's specifications, to prevent electrical shock hazards, not permit introduction of toxic fumes or contaminants	
Air induction systems accessible for service, installed in accordance with the NEC/all codes	
If air blower/etc. is provided, manually operated timer switch located to require exiting of spa to reset and ≥ 5 ft away. Timer shall operate spa blower/booster pump, shut off the pump in 10 min or when switched off	
Break-resistant thermometer designed for use in spa environment available for patrons/staff	

CIRCULATION SYSTEM (GENERAL) 2021 ISPSC Sec 311-311.2.3	Plans
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Wading pools and spas have separate and independent filtering systems	
Circulation system components accessible for inspection/repair/replacement	
Circulation system components installed to manufacturer's specifications	
Equipment and piping installed to manufacturer's instructions	
Complete, easily readable schematic of circulation system posted in pump room	

TURNOVER 2021 ISPSC Sec 407.2 Table 407.2	Pre-Con Letter
Turnover rate for Class A/B/C pools—1.5 times average depth, not to exceed 6 hours	
Turnover rate for spas—30 minutes	
Turnover rate for wading pools – 1 hour	
When existing pools/spas renovated, they must comply with new turnover rates.	

FLOW VELOCITY 2021 ISPSC 311.3 (Ref 2021 State Code)	Pre-Con Letter
Return line water velocity must be < 8 ft. per second	
Suction piping water velocity must be ≤ 6 fps	
Maximum suction system flow rate--in accordance with ANSI/PHTA/ICC-7 & ANSI/APSP-16	

PIPING, GAUGES, FLOW METERS, VALVES 2021 ISPSC Sec. 302.3, 311.4.3, 311.6, 311.7	Plans
Piping/fittings listed/labeled to comply with NSF 50 or 14/code standards and properly	
Piping capable of complete drainage or evacuation. (freeze damage)	
Gauges: pump suction, filter inlet, filter outlet.	
Flow meter(s) provided for filter flow during filtering	
Labeled circulation piping with function and flow direction.	

FILTERS, BACKWASH 2021 ISPSC Sec. 312, 302.6	Plans
Filtration required for all pools/spas that recirculate water	
Wading pools and spas have separate and independent filtering systems	
Filter meets ANSI/NSFI Standard 50 requirements, using appropriate filter media	
Filter is properly designed/installed for pool/spa.	
Pressure-type filters must have means provided to release internal pressure.	
Filter equipped with automatic and manual air release devices.	
Filter operating parameters/instruction plate affixed to unit.	
Separation tanks with filter tanks have manual air release, lid allowing for slow/safe release	
Filters/separation tanks with operation/maintenance instructions permanently installed	
Observable free fall or sight glass on backwash piping.	
Sight glasses are removable for cleaning, if used.	
Filters designed for backwashing, used and maintained to manufacturer instructions.	

PUMPS AND MOTORS 2021 ISPSC Sec. 313	Plans
Pump not operated under unsafe conditions.	
Pump certified/listed/labeled with NSF Standard 50, installed to manufacturer's instructions	
Pump motor sized to meet filter flow rate requirements.	

Strainer installed upstream of pump.	
Pump motor properly designed/installed.	
Pumps/motors accessible for inspection and service	
Shut off valves installed for pump removal if below pool elevation.	
Motors shall comply with UL requirements.	
Motors able to operate at 90-110% nameplate rating voltage load	
Thermal/current overload protection required	
Emergency shutoff switch located within sight of pool \geq 5ft from inside wall of pool	

GENERAL SUCTION OUTLETS AND COVERS 2021 ISPC Sec. 310.1, 311.4.1, 314, 405.6	Pre-Con Letter/Plan
Designed to protect against suction entrapment, entanglement, and evisceration.	
Fully submerged suction outlets not required, skimmers not considered suction outlets	
Approved suction outlet covers/grates/fittings/components, to ANSI/APSP-16 & ANSI/APSP-7	
Cover is stamped or specifications submitted showing compliance/maximum flow rate (VGBA)	
Flow rate through fitting/cover/grate \leq approved stamped flow rate if one outlet blocked	
Wading pools/pools with depth of \leq 18" shall not have suction outlets	
Special rules for field-fabricated suction outlets and sumps (Ref TX State Pool Code)	
Single submerged suction outlet not allowed.	
Dual/multiple suction outlets provided, hydraulically balanced.	
Suction outlets located at least 3 feet apart	
No means of isolating suction outlets allowed that would allow single suction outlet	
Pipes that serve two or more suction outlets may have shut off valve	
SVRS/APSS operated/tested/maintained to manufacturer instructions, Records kept 2 years	

VACUUM OUTLETS 2021 ISPC Sec 314.5	Plans
Vacuum outlets installed \leq 12" below water level	
Vacuum outlets protected by self-locking, self-closing cover, can't be opened by pool users	
Vacuum outlets in skimmers not required to have a separate cover	

RETURN INLETS 2021 ISPC Sec. 314.4, 407.4.3-407.4.4	Plans
Pools--1 return inlet for every 300 square feet ft ²	
Spas—1 return inlet for every 150 ft ² , minimum 2 inlets	
Return inlets designed not to create a hazard	
Wall return inlets must not project more than 1 inch beyond wall and spacing not to exceed 20ft	
Floor return inlets shall be flush with floor and spacing not to exceed 20 ft and are required for pools greater than 50ft	

SKIMMER/GUTTER SYSTEMS 2021 ISPC Sec. 315	Plans
Skimmers/Gutter systems designed and installed hazard free.	
Skimmer equalizer lines prohibited, skimmers vented to atmosphere via openings in lid	
Skimmers provided one per 500 ft ² for pools.	
Surface skimming system required, listed/labeled, designed to be effective	

	Pre- Con Letter
Surface skimming system required, listed/labeled, designed to be effective	
Skimmer system capable of 100% of circulation system flow.	
Pool gutter system surge capacity \geq one gallon per ft ² pool surface area.	

ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS 2021 ISPSC Sec. 302, 304.5, 321	Plans
Electrical equipment installed per NEC (2023) (NFPA 70) and other relevant codes	
**Electrical system must be installed/repared/replaced by licensed electrician	
Electrical equipment design UL or equivalent approved.	
**Equipment/components installed in compliance with manufacturer's instructions	
GFCI protection on underwater lights operating greater than 15V (NEC 680.23)	
GFCI protection of all plugs in pool/spa yard enclosure	
GFCI protection on all outlets in dressing or sanitary facilities	
GFCI and circuit breakers shall comply with 2023 NEC code	
Pump motors both internally and externally grounded	
Pools bonded in accordance with 2023 NEC or with UL 1563 as applicable	
Plastic coated rebar prohibited	
Electrical conduits shall not enter or pass-thru an interior chemical storage space	
Lights protected against breakage inside interior chemical storage spaces	
Overhead lines elevated over pool/spa in compliance with NEC and NESC	
Electrical disconnect within sight of equipment and \geq 5' from pool/spa walls	

LIGHTING 2021 ISPSC Sec. 321	Plans
Artificial lighting required 30 minutes before/after sunrise if open in dark	
Lighting must illuminate bottom of pool/suction outlets, enable lifeguard visibility	
Adequate illumination from artificial lighting to pass Secchi disk test	
Pool and spa deck lighting required, listed/labeled/installed to NFPA 70 and NEC	
**Outdoor pools must meet at least 10 horizontal foot-candles/108 lux at pool water surface	
**Indoor pools must meet at least 30 horizontal foot-candles/323 lux at pool water surface	
**Deck area must meet at least 10 horizontal foot-candles/108 lux at deck walking surface	
**Underwater lighting in pools/spas at least 8 lamp lumens per ft ² per surface area	
For underwater lighting fixtures/lamps rated in watts, at least 0.5 watts/ft ² required	
Dimmable/color changing lighting allowed but lowest level must meet minimum requirements	
**Emergency lighting required for pools/spas that operate in periods of low illumination	
Security lighting must be sufficient to illuminate pool during low illumination/during closure	
Renovated pools/spas must meet new lighting requirements	

HEATERS 2021 ISPSC Sec. 303.1.1-1.3, 316	Plans
Accessible on-off switch required, either integral/mounted on exterior/within 3' of heater	
On-off switch operation doesn't change thermostat setting, in addition to circuit breaker	
Gas-fired heaters not equipped with continuously burning ignition pilots	
Covers required for heated pools/spas unless 70% of heating energy from solar/heat pump	

Heaters/hot water storage tanks required to be UL listed to table 316.2	
Means shall be provided to monitor water temperature	
Public access to heater controls prohibited	
Solar thermal water heaters specifically installed/listed/labeled. Page 3-10 Sec (316.6)	
**Heaters installed to manufacturer's specifications	
Fuel-fired and electric appliances for spas—special requirements, see page 5-1 Sec 506	
Heaters \geq 200K BTU Texas Dept. of Licensing/Regulation certified	
Water temperature of spa shall not exceed 104 degrees F	

WATER SUPPLY 2021 ISPSC Sec. 318	Building
Water supply from approved source	
Private water supplies must meet certain requirements (2024 State Code 265.187c)	
	Plans
RPZ backflow preventer or approved air gap required on all fill lines for backflow prevention	
Over-the-rim fill spout: shielded to prevent hazard; \leq 2" beyond edge of pool; has an air gap	
Hose bibs in enclosure must have vacuum breakers	

FACILITY DRINKING WATER Sec 265.187(d) 2024 State Code	Plans
Drinking water fountain/bottled water/etc. provided and available for pool/spa users	
When drinking water not located in enclosure, sign with minimum 1" letters required in enclosure, visible to users, that states location of drinking water	

WASTEWATER DISPOSAL 2021 ISPSC Sec. 302.6, 320	Plans
Backwash to approved sewage disposal system (i.e. sanitary sewer)	
No direct connection between pool/spa/equipment and sewage disposal system	
Backwash/drainage water discharged through approved air gap (minimum 2X pipe diameter)	
Water salvage—backwash water not returned unless treated/approved	
Post treatment required for wastewater that does not meet sanitary sewer/stormwater discharge standards (i.e. diatomaceous earth, etc.)	
Wastewater/stormwater disposal must meet all other federal/state/etc. requirements	

DISINFECTION EQUIPMENT, CHEMICALS, FEEDERS 2021 ISPSC Sec 319, 324.7-325	Preliminary
Pool and spa water must be continuously disinfected	
Treatment chemicals certified/listed/labeled to approved standards/used properly	
Use of compressed chlorine gas prohibited	
Personnel trained, PPE provided, SDS sheets on-site/readily available	
Automated/remotely managed controllers for pool/spa disinfection and pH control required	
Disinfection equipment selected/installed for continuous and effective disinfection	
Disinfectant feed systems must have capacity to reach \geq 5 ppm Cl- for outdoor pools*	
Disinfectant feed systems must have capacity to reach \geq 3 ppm Cl- for indoor pools/spas*	
<i>*Or bromine equivalent</i>	
After hand distribution of chemicals, tests of disinfectant levels/pH required 30 minutes after distribution. No one may reenter pool/spa until levels are checked and within required range	
Chemical bulk/day tanks clearly labeled to indicate contents	
Chemicals and feed equipment stored so that pool/spa users do not have access	
Dry chemicals stored off floor or in waterproof containers in a dry room	
All chemicals must be protected from tampering, fires, and exposure to water	
Chemical feeders must meet and be operated in compliance with NSF Standard 50	

Chemical feeders installed/maintained/operated in accordance with manufacturer instructions	
Chemical feeders installed so that chemicals introduced downstream from filter/heater; at a point lower than the heater outlet fitting or according to manufacturer instructions	
Failure-proof features installed so that chemicals cannot feed into pool/spa/equipment/etc if equipment or power fails	
Chemical feed pumps wired so they cannot operate unless adequate return flow to properly disburse chemical; regulated to ensure constant feed with varying supply backpressure	
Water treatment chemicals shall be EPA-registered for use in pools/spas under FIFRA	
See 25 TAC 265.193(a) for water quality criteria of State Pool Rules	
Cyanuric acid not allowed in indoor pools/spas or in therapy pools	
Request alternate methods of disinfectant--see 25 TAC 265.196 of State Pool Rules	
Emergency eyewash station provided in all chemical storage areas	
Chemical Storage may not be in same location with combustion equipment	
Outdoor chemical storage must be well ventilated, have a barrier ≥6ft, gate must be self-latching, self-closing, with a permanent locking device	

HANDHOLDS 2021 ISPC Sec. 323	Plans
If water depth >42" and no seat or bench, swimout-installed handholds required	
Handholds not required for wave action pools, surf pools, and leisure rivers	
Handholds located ≤12" above design waterline, horizontally spaced ≤4' apart	
May be coping, rope, railing, rock, ledge, ladder, or stair step	

FLOAT LINES AND FLOOR MARKINGS 2021 ISPC Sec.605	Plans
Transition point from shallow to deep shall have a 4-inch min. width row of floor tile, painted line, or similar means of color contrasting with bottom	
	Plans
Float lines required by State law for Class A pools not being used for competitive events and Class B pools.	
Wave pools, surf pools, and waterslide landing pools exempted from providing float line	
Float line and buoys provided 1 to 2 ft. before 5-ft. depth point	
Float line buoys secured ≤ 7 ft. apart.	
Float line must be tightly tensioned.	
Float line must provide good handhold and be durable.	
Float line wall anchors are recessed with no projection that creates a hazard.	

DEPTH MARKERS 2021 ISPC Sec. 409.1-409.3, (SPA 508.3)	Plans
Provided on deck and sidewalls.	
Indicate depth from water level to floor of pool taken 3 feet from pool wall. (done at pre-plaster)	
Depth markers and units of measurement (FT, IN, M) ≥ 4 inches letter height	
Units of measurement spelled "feet", "inches", "meters", or abbreviated as "FT", "IN", "M"	
Must be of contrasting color	
Must be permanent. May be metal tiles/letters, ceramic tiles, engraved concrete with letters and numbers	
Provided at minimum and maximum water depths	
Provided at both sides and at each end of the pool	
Provided at all points of slope change	
Provided every 2 ft. of depth change	
Provided at least one every 25 feet of deck	

Deck depth markers slip-resistant, within 18" of water's edge	
Pool sidewall markers posted in the top 4.5 in. of pool wall just under coping	
Positioned correctly (deck markers readable while standing on deck facing water, wall markers readable to users inside pool/spa)	
Sidewall markers not required of beach entry pool on the beach entry.	
Not required on wave pool or surf pool decks.	
Spas shall have at least two depth markers, uniformly placed, meet other requirements	
Depth marker rules for roll-out gutter pools—see 409.2.2	
Depth marker rules for vanishing edge pools—see 409.2.2	
Pools/spas with moveable floors and varied water depth—see State Code 265.195(d1-4)	
Depth marker rules for leisure rivers (State Code 265.195c) required on sidewalls on both sides of entry /exit	

“NO DIVING” MARKERS—WORDS/SYMBOL 2021 ISPSC Sec. 409.3, 412; 2024 State Code 265.190	Plans
“NO DIVING” words and international symbol marked on pool deck in contrasting colors	
Must be permanent, slip-resistant; diving symbol must be black or red on light background	
“NO DIVING” and international symbol (4 inch letters) on deck where water depth ≤ 5 ft	
Must be spaced at least every 25 feet of deck where water depth ≤ 5 ft	
Within 18 inches of water's edge and positioned correctly (readable when standing on deck facing the water)	
Located on permanent structures above the deck and within 5' of water surface, unless structure is diving board/diving platform/ADA-compliant chair lift/slide flume/lifeguard stand/bridge	

POOL SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS 2021 ISPSC Sec 412	Plans
Securely mounted, durable, inside the pool enclosure, visible, legible, have distinct border	
Can be multiple signs or messaging combined on one sign	
Where majority non-English speaking, additional signs optional in predominant language	
<i>Following Signs in 4" Letters:</i>	
“WARNING - NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY” (NA where lifeguards required/ provided)	
“NO DIVING” and international symbol. (State law: NA where lifeguards required/provided)	
“IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, DIAL 911”	
<i>Following Signs in 2" Letters:</i>	
Maximum user load limit	
“PETS IN THE POOL/SPA ARE PROHIBITED”	
“DO NOT SWIM IF YOU HAVE BEEN ILL WITH DIARRHEA WITHIN THE PAST 2	
“DIAPER CHANGING IN THE POOL/SPA AREA IS PROHIBITED”	
“GLASS ITEMS NOT ALLOWED IN THE POOL YARD”	
“PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 14 MUST NOT BE IN THE POOL/SPA WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION”	
“EXTENDED BREATH HOLDING ACTIVITIES ARE DANGEROUS AND PROHIBITED”	

<i>Following Signs in 1” Letters</i>	
Hours of Operation	
Instructional signs for wave pools/slide pools/etc.	
Sign posted to identify emergency phone/summoning device (posted above)	
If drinking water not located in enclosure, sign to notify users of location of drinking water	
Precise location of pool on or with the emergency phone	
<i>Following Signs in Any Size Letters:</i>	
Clear operating instructions posted at emergency phone/summoning device	
Emergency shutoffs for pools clearly labeled	

SPA SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS 2021 ISPSC Sec. 508.2	Plans
Securely mounted, durable, and visible from inside the spa enclosure, legible	
Can be multiple signs or messaging combined on one sign	
Where majority non-English speaking, additional signs optional in predominant language	
<i>Following Signs in 4” Letters:</i>	
“WARNING - NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY” (NA where lifeguards required/ provided)	
“NO DIVING” and international symbol for NO DIVING.”	
<i>Following Signs in 2” Letters:</i>	
Precise location of spa on or with the emergency phone	
“EMERGENCY SPA SHUTOFF”	
“PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 14 MUST NOT BE IN THE POOL/SPA WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION”	
“PETS IN THE SPA ARE PROHIBITED”	
“DO NOT SWIM IF YOU HAVE BEEN ILL WITH DIARRHEA WITHIN THE PAST 2 WEEKS”	
<i>Following Signs in 1” Letters</i>	
Maximum User Load	
“DO NOT USE THE SPA IF THE WATER TEMPERATURE IS ABOVE 104 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT”	
Sign posted to identify emergency phone/summoning device (posted above it)	
If drinking water not located in enclosure, sign to notify users of location of drinking water	
<i>Following sign in any size</i>	
“ALARM INDICATES SPA PUMPS OFF. DO NOT USE SPA WHEN ALARM SOUNDS AND LIGHTS ARE ILLUMINATED UNTIL ADVISED OTHERWISE”	

SAFETY EQUIPMENT 2021 ISPSC Sec. 409 ; State Code 265.191	Plans
Reaching poles/ring buoys/throw ropes visible/readily accessible from all areas of enclosure	
Shepherds crook: ≥12 feet long, non-conductive, non-telescoping pole.	
USCG Ring Buoy with attached rope ≥ ¼” diameter. Throwing rope must have length of 1 ½ of the maximum width of the pool or 50ft whichever is less	
Provide 1 set of safety equipment for every 2000 ft² water surface up to 6000 ft²	
After 6000 ft², provide 1 additional set of safety equipment for each additional 4000 ft²	
For facilities with lifeguards: backboards with 3 tie down straps/head immobilizer, place adequately for a 2 minute response time	
For facilities with lifeguards: 24-item first aid kit meets OSHA standards	
For facilities with lifeguards: one portable AED kept in secure location, easily accessed	
For facilities with lifeguards: one BVM kept in secure location, easily accessed	
For facilities with lifeguards: platforms/stands required where water depth >5 ft, equipped with sunshade/umbrella that does not obstruct view of surveillance area	

For facilities with lifeguards: each lifeguard has uniform, rescue tube with rope/strap, whistle or signaling device, PPE including resuscitation mask with one-way valve/non-latex and non-powdered single-use disposable gloves in hip pack or attached to rescue tube	
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TELEPHONES/EMERGENCY SUMMONING DEVICES State Code Sec. 265.190	Plans
Minimum one emergency summoning device/phone	
Readily accessible, within 200 feet of water, functions when open/all times in operating season	
Identifying sign posted above phone/device in minimum 1” letters	
Must not call on-site office	
Must contact 911 dispatch/24-hour emergency monitoring service/EMS	
Cell phones used as emergency phones labeled/ activated/ have permanent power supply	

LIFEGUARD PERSONNEL STANDARDS State Code Sec 265.191	Preliminary
Lifeguards required at Class A pools during competitive events	
Lifeguards required at Class B pools whenever the Class B pool is open	
Lifeguards required at any pool where user enters water from height above deck or wall	
Lifeguards required at any wave or surf pool	
Lifeguards required at any pool being used for recreation of youth groups	
Minimum two lifeguards required	
Lifeguard staffing plan provides supervision/close observation of all users at all times	
Copy of lifeguard staffing plan available on-site, provided to inspector upon request	
Each lifeguard assigned surveillance area commensurate with ability/training/perspective	
Lifeguards not assigned duties that distract from lifeguarding	
Rotation procedure for lifeguards that provides sufficient break time	
Lifeguards have easy/quick access to rescue equipment	
Pre-season training program required	
“In-service” training of 60 minutes/every 40 hours of employment per lifeguard/staff	
Review of CDC standards for responding to fecal/vomit/blood contamination events	
Performance audits required as recommended by ARC/YMCA/Ellis/etc.	
Facility Emergency Action Plans required with specific info	
All training reviewed/current/available to inspector within 5 business days	
Kept 3 years: Lifeguard’s certifications including expiration dates, training details	

POOL YARD ENCLOSURES 2021 ISPSC Sec 305; State Code 265.192	Plans
<i>CLASS A, B, and Youth Camp Pools/Spas: 265.192 (b) 1-4</i>	
Has a minimum effective height of 6’	
No openings larger than 4”	
No Horizontal mid-rail	
No windows may be lower than 6’ if open into enclosure	
<i>Class C Apartments, Condominiums, & HOA Pools/Spas Enclosures CH. 757, Sec 305 (All Pool Types)</i>	Plans
Constructed so persons must pass through gate/door to access pool/spa. Gates/doors exiting a pool/spa yard must open into public area/ walkway accessible by all users	

Enclosures for pools/spas inside a building—State Code Pool Rules (h) 1-3	
Service gates/doors must not be used as entry/exit, not required to be self-closing/self-latching, and must be kept securely closed/locked when not in actual use.	
Propping gate open is prohibited	
Chain link enclosures not allowed	
Self-closing, Self-latching device; able to be locked, opens outward away from the pool yard	
(45”) or more between tops of horizontal members - No openings through which a (4”) diameter sphere can pass	
Less than (45”) between tops of horizontal members - No openings through which a (1.75”) diameter sphere can pass	
Decorative designs or cutouts on/ in enclosure - No openings greater than (1.75”) in any direction	
No large indentations/protrusions in a solid wall on the side away from the pool	
No permanent equipment/ structures constructed/placed that makes them readily available for climbing over the enclosure within 36 inches.	
No openings UNDER fence through which a (4”) diameter sphere can pass on solid ground	
No openings UNDER the fence through which a (2”) diameter sphere can pass on unstable ground	
Doors/gates of a building capable of being opened not allowed unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Doors/gates between building and enclosure are for entry into adjacent storage room, restroom, shower room, dressing room, or mechanical room; or (2) The room does not have any door or gate openings to the outside of the pool yard or spa yard enclosure; or (3) The pool or spa yard is indoor and complies with requirements for indoor enclosures on page 25 of State Pool Code. 	
Gates/doors are self-closing and self-latching.	
Gates/doors open outward away from pool/spa	
Gate/door opening hardware is hand-activated and ≥ 3.5 ft. high from deck. Hardware only permitted on pool/spa side of gate, no openings >0.5 inches within 18” of the hardware.	
Gates/doors are capable of being locked / secured.	
No doors or windows in enclosure that open to outside the pool enclosure	
Enclosure must be locked for repairs/hazards/adding chemicals by hand/etc	
Completely encloses pool/spa	
Latch (60”) off ground or higher, OR	
Latch LOWER than (60”) off ground IF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Latch is on pool side (2) Latch is 3” or more below top of gate, <u>AND</u> No opening greater than 1/2” in any direction within 18” from the latch; OR	
Latch (42”) off ground or higher if the gate can <u>ONLY</u> be opened by a key, card, or combination on both sides of the gate.	
	Plans
Distance between horizontal members shall be no less than 45 inches.	
Windows that open into enclosure not allowed unless they are 4 feet from ground surface	

DRESSING/SANITARY FACILITIES 2021 ISPSC Sec. 410, 609	Plans
Fixtures designed to be cleanable/installed according to plumbing codes/cleaned	
Adequate ventilation required to prevent objectionable odors	
Separate dressing/toilet facilities for each gender	
Well-lit/drained/ventilated, planned/developed to maintain sanitation	
Partitions durable, protected from water damage, waterway provided to permit cleaning	
Adequate number hose bibs/hoses of adequate length provided for cleaning, stored properly	
Floors smooth/easy-to-clean/impervious-to-water/slip-resistant. Meet ANSI A137.1	
Lavatory/shower/toilet located to encourage use of facilities by pool/spa users	
Shower provided with hot/cold running water, anti-scald device	
Cleansing water temperature between 90-120 degrees F	

Sanitary napkin receptacles provided at each toilet/shower areas	
<p>If dressing/sanitary facilities provided, they must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Metal/plastic soap dispensers at each lavatory; (2) Shatter resistant mirrors; (3) Toilet paper holders/toilet paper at each toilet; (4) Covered waste receptacles in toilet area or dressing room areas; (5) Single-use hand drying towels or hand drying devices provided near the lavatory. 	
If restrooms are required/provided each gendered restroom shall be equipped with at least one diaper changing station. City of Fort Worth Ordinance	

FOOD, BEVERAGES, AND CONTAINERS State Code Sec. 265.194	Preliminary
Food/beverages not allowed in pool/spa unless it is privately owned.	
Glass containers prohibited.	
Covered trash receptacles required where food or beverages are allowed or served.	

