

ISPSC



## **2025 GROUP B PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE I-CODES**

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## **ISPSC Code Change Proposals**

The following code change proposal is labeled as a SP code change proposal because it is a proposal for changes to sections in chapters of the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code that are designated as the responsibility of the ISPSC Code Development Committee (see page viii of the Introductory pages of this monograph), which met in the Group A cycle in 2024. However, the changes included in this Group B code development cycle are to sections of the code that have been prefaced with a [S] and meaning that they are the responsibility of a different IBC Code Development Committee— the IBC-Structural [S] Committees.

The committee assigned for each code change proposal is indicated in a banner statement near the beginning of the proposal. See the IBC-Structural hearing orders.

# SP1-25

ISPSC: [BS] 304.2, [BS] 304.2.1, [BS] 304.2.2, [BS] 304.3, [BS] 304.4, 304.5

**Proponents:** Rebecca Quinn, RCQuinn Consulting, representing Association of State Floodplain Managers (rebecca@rcquinnconsulting.com); Chad Berginnis, representing Association of State Floodplain Managers (cberginnis@floods.org)

**THIS CODE CHANGE WILL BE HEARD BY THE IBC STRUCTURAL CODE COMMITTEE. SEE THE TENTATIVE HEARING ORDER FOR THAT COMMITTEE.**

## 2024 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code

**Add new definition as follows:**

**BASE FLOOD ELEVATION.** The elevation of the base flood, including wave height, relative to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD), North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) or other datum specified on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

**304.1 General.** The provisions of Section 304 shall control the design and construction of pools and spas installed in *flood hazard areas*.

**Revise as follows:**

**[BS] 304.2 Determination of compliance impacts based on location.** Pools and spas located in *flood hazard areas* indicated within the *International Building Code* or the *International Residential Code* shall comply with Section 304.2.1, ~~or 304.2.2~~ or 304.2.3.

**~~Exception~~ Exceptions:**

1. Pools and spas located in riverine flood hazard areas that are outside of designated floodways, and pools and spas located in *flood hazard areas* where the source of flooding is tides, storm surges or coastal storms.
2. Pools and spas located inland of coastal high hazard areas or inland of Coastal A Zones where the source of flooding is tides, storm surges, or coastal storms.

**[BS] 304.2.1 Pools and spas located in designated floodways.** Where pools and spas are located in designated floodways, documentation shall be submitted to the *code official* that demonstrates that the construction of the pools and spas will not increase the ~~base design~~ flood elevation at any point within the jurisdiction.

**[BS] 304.2.2 Pools and spas located in riverine flood hazard areas where floodways have not been designated.** Where pools and spas are located where ~~base design~~ flood elevations are specified but floodways have not been designated, the applicant shall provide a floodway analysis that demonstrates that the proposed pool or spa and any associated grading and filling, will not increase the ~~base design~~ flood elevation more than 1 foot (305 mm) at any point within the jurisdiction.

**[BS] ~~304.2.3~~ 304.3 Pools and spas in coastal high-hazard areas and coastal A zones.** Pools and spas installed in coastal high-hazard areas and coastal A zones shall be designed and constructed in accordance with ASCE 24.

**[BS] ~~304.3~~ 304.4 Protection of equipment.** Equipment shall be elevated to or above the ~~base design~~ flood elevation.

**Exception:** Equipment for pools, spas and water features shall be permitted below the required elevation provided that the equipment is elevated to the highest extent practical, is anchored to prevent flotation and resist flood forces, and is protected to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.

**~~304.4~~ 304.5 GFCI protection.** Electrical equipment installed below the ~~base design~~ flood elevation shall be supplied by branch circuits that have ground-fault circuit interrupter protection for personnel.

**Reason:**

This proposal does three things.

1. Modifies the exception to Sec. 304.1 to use defined terms (Coastal A Zone and Coastal High Hazard Areas), rather than broad descriptions of coastal areas.
2. Renumbers sections to group the three scenarios where compliance based on location must be determined.
3. Replaces “design flood elevation” with “base flood elevation.” The floodway is a base flood concept, as defined by the NFIP regulations and modeled by FEMA to delineate floodways on Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Referring to the base flood elevation achieves a reasonable level of protection against flood damage. Pool equipment does not need to be elevated or protected to the same elevation as equipment that serves buildings.

**Cost Impact:** The change proposal is editorial in nature or a clarification and has no cost impact on the cost of construction

**Justification for no cost impact:**

This proposal is primarily editorial to use defined terms and regroup existing provisions. There is one change to the technical content of the provisions that changes the flood protection elevation for pool equipment from design flood elevation to base flood elevation. In some communities that adopt flood maps in addition to the FEMA maps, base flood elevation is lower than design flood elevation so in theory, costs may be slightly lower. By making editorial changes and replacing “design flood elevation” with “base flood elevation” there will be no cost impact when approving this proposal.

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SP1-25