



News Release

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INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL GIVES MAJOR BOOST TO POOL SAFETY *ICC Adopts APSP/ANSI-7 Standard*

Alexandria, VA (September 23, 2008) – On September 21, the International Code Council (ICC) voted to replace the existing language for pool and spa entrapment avoidance in the International Building Code (IBC, *public pools and spas*) and the International Residential Code (IRC, *residential pool and spas*) by incorporating the ANSI/APSP -7 2006 Standard for Suction Entrapment Avoidance. The floor vote was by code officials from 50 states, who decided by an overwhelming majority to reverse the decision of both the IBC and IRC Committees back in February in Palm Springs. As a result, the ANSI/APSP -7 standard will be incorporated into the body (mandatory) of the 2009 International Building Code and in Appendix G of the 2009 International Residential Code. Both are scheduled for publication in early 2009. While other existing ANSI/APSP standards are referenced in Appendix G of the IRC, this will be the first time an Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) standard will be adopted into the body of the IBC.

Carvin DiGiovanni, APSP senior technical director stated, “This victory is a major step for pool and spa safety – and reinforces APSP’s safety core value proposition. Additionally, adoption into the ICC codes will greatly facilitate implementation of the ANSI/APSP-7 standard nationwide. The IBC code has been adopted by all 50 states and 46 states have adopted the IRC.”

In speaking with code officials, it was clear that they were persuaded by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) consensus approval process as well as the fact that the standard provided protection against the five known forms of entrapment. The solutions this standard offers are technically sound and completely consistent with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB Act) and current Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) interpretations. The APSP supported and helped to develop the VGB Act and has worked closely with the CPSC and other organizations toward its implementation.

This outcome was the result of a tremendous team effort, led by APSP Staff, Carvin DiGiovanni, and aided by many tireless industry volunteers, most notably Steve Barnes, chairman of the APSP Technical Committee, and Dan Johnson, chairman of the APSP Inground Residential Standard Committee. Both Steve and Dan are also members of the ANSI/APSP-7 committee. A special thanks goes to those individuals who testified on the Association's behalf, as well as to the code consultant, Lorraine Ross of Intech, Jennifer Hatfield of the Florida Swimming Pool Association and legal counsel, Steve Getzoff, who all devoted so much time and expertise to the effort.

APSP President & CEO, Bill Weber said, "The ICC's decisive action underscores the power of the industry when we speak with one voice, as we did here with the APSP proposals to the ICC. It affirms the integrity of the ANSI consensus process in approving the ANSI/APSP-7 standard. Most of all, it affirms solutions that will truly protect the public from future risk of suction entrapment. It is one of the most significant pool and spa safety advances ever!"

"Testifying on this issue before the ICC since 2003, I take great personal satisfaction in achieving this long awaited, hard fought goal," adds DiGiovanni.

APSP's next step is to contact agencies in each state, particularly those who have adopted the IBC (public pools and spas) and Appendix G of the IRC (residential pools and spas), to make them aware of the ANSI/APSP -7 standard and to start developing training programs on how code officials and industry professionals can implement the ANSI/APSP -7 standard.

About APSP

The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) is the world's largest international trade association representing the swimming pool, spa and hot tub industry. APSP's mission is promoting consumer safety and enhancing the business success of its members. Members adhere to a code of business ethics and share a commitment to public health and safety in the use of pools, spas and hot tubs. APSP member companies include manufacturers, distributors, manufacturers' agents, designers, builders, installers, retailers, and service professionals. For more information visit www.APSP.org.