



Marion County Public Works

Building Inspection Division

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Building Inspection Policy & Procedure No. 113

P&P 113

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DWELLING WALLS USED AS A PART OF A POOL BARRIER – ORSC AG105.2 Item 9.

Background & Discussion:

The Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC) Appendix G requires barriers to swimming pools. Under certain conditions the wall of a dwelling is allowed to be utilized as a part of the required barrier. The ORSC allows the use of a wall to serve as part of the barrier when one of the following is met:

- 9.1 The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM 1346; or
- 9.2 Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the governing body, shall be acceptable as long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Item 9.1 described above.

The model code that the ORSC is based on, the International Residential Code (IRC), allows the use of a wall to serve as part of the barrier when one of the following is met:

- 9.1 The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM 1346; or
- 9.2 Doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2017. The deactivation switch(es) shall be located at least 54 inches (1372 mm) above the threshold of the door; or
- 9.2 Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the governing body, shall be acceptable as long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Item 9.1 or 9.2 described above.

In the early 1990's during the adoption process Oregon amended the model code to eliminate what was at that time an option equivalent to the IRC item 9.2. At that time the model code language for this item was confusing and the those involved in the adoption process felt that audible alarms would be deemed as providing the same protection afforded by the other two items and thus could/would be acceptable. In order to prevent confusion or inconsistent interpretation of this code section, this policy concerning the interpretation of ORSC AG105.2 item 9 has been adopted.

Policy:

Marion County Building Inspection will allow the use of a wall to serve as part of the barrier when one of the following is met:

- 9.1 The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM 1346; or
- 9.2 Doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2017. The deactivation switch(es) shall be located at least 54 inches (1372 mm) above the threshold of the door; or
- 9.2 Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the governing body, shall be acceptable as long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Item 9.1 or 9.2 described above.