



Department of Permitting Services

Division of Building Construction

255 Rockville Pike, 2nd Floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850

CODE INTERPRETATION/POLICY

Policy Name:

Permits for Inflatable Pools

Code/Year

International Residential Code
(IRC) 2009

Montgomery County Code

Section of Code

Section AG 105

Section 51-15

Title of Code Section/Subsection

Barrier Requirements for Inflatable Swimming
Pools

Enclosure of swimming pool

Statement/Background of Issue

Section AG103.2 of IRC requires pools to be designed in accordance with ANSI/NSPI-4 Standard for Aboveground/On-ground Residential Swimming Pools. The standard classifies splasher (wader) pools having "a minimum water depth of twenty-four inches (24") and a maximum water depth of thirty-six inches (36") as class D pools that "are not intended to be covered in the scope of NSPI standards."

However, section AG 102 of the IRC defines swimming pools as "Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches (610 mm) deep. This includes in-ground, aboveground and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas." Section 51-15 of the Montgomery County Code requires outdoor swimming pools over 18 inches deep to be enclosed with adequate barriers.

Section AG 105 of the IRC requires that outdoor swimming pools be surrounded by a barrier as prescribed.

Division Interpretation/Policy

A permit is required for all pools, including inflatable pools, if they contain over 18" of water depth. The issuance of the permit will ensure that all code requirements are observed, including the barrier requirements.

For inflatable pools, after the first approved inspection, the homeowner shall retain the approved construction documents and permit and shall ensure that every season the pool installation is in accordance with the approved construction documents.

Interpretation/Policy No.

BCP11-05

Date

March 1, 2011

Division Chief:

Hadi Mansouri