



# Washington State Building Code Council

*Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare*

1500 Jefferson Street SE • P.O. Box 41449 • Olympia, Washington 98504  
(360) 407-9280 • fax (360) 586-5366 • e-mail sbcc@ga.wa.gov • www.ga.wa.gov/sbcc

## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 15-01

**CODE:** 2012 International Residential Code / 2012 International Building Code

**SECTION:** IRC AG105.2 / IBC 3109.4

***IRC Section AG105.2*** – Outdoor swimming pool. An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa, shall be surrounded by a barrier which shall comply with the following: (1-10).

***IBC Section 3109.4*** – Residential swimming pools. Residential swimming pools shall comply with Sections 3109.4.4 through 3109.4.3.

***Exception:*** A swimming pool with a power safety cover or a spa with a safety cover complying with ASTM F 1346 need not comply with Section 3109.4

**QUESTION:** IBC Section 3109.4 states residential pools must comply with Sections 3109.4 through 3109.4.3, which is all about barriers. The exception in the IBC states that when equipped with a power safety cover, the pool need not comply with the barrier requirements. In the IRC, Appendix G Section 105.2 does not provide this exception; the power safety cover is required when a wall of the dwelling is part of the barrier. Does the IBC apply to a single family residential swimming pool?

**ANSWER:** No. Since IRC Appendix G is specifically adopted by the SBCC to apply to single family, IRC Section AG105.2 takes precedence. The exception in IBC Section 3109.4 would apply only as an alternate method where approved by the building official. The two codes conflict on the use of a power safety cover in lieu of a barrier.

**SUPERSEDES:** None

**REQUESTED BY:** City of Vancouver