

RESIDENTIAL CODE OF OHIO: INTERPRETATIONS



OHIO BOARD OF BUILDING STANDARDS

These code interpretations are based upon reviews and recommendations from the Residential Construction Advisory Committee (RCAC) to the Ohio Board of Building Standards. After deliberation and review of the recommendations from the RCAC, the Board's Code Committee reports its recommendation to the full Board for action at a regularly scheduled conference meeting. Upon formal action of the Ohio Board of Building Standards, pursuant to ORC Sections 3781.10 and 4740.14, the interpretation will apply for enforcement of the *Residential Code of Ohio for 1-, 2-, and 3-Family Dwellings*.

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RESIDENTIAL CODE OF OHIO CODE INTERPRETATIONS**

CHAPTER 11

**No. 3-2013
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**SECTION 1103
SYSTEMS**

1103.8 Pools. *Where regulations are adopted and enforced by the local jurisdiction, residential swimming pools shall be provided with energy conserving measures in accordance with Sections 1103.8.1 through 1103.8.3.*

Q. Does the adoption of an ordinance relating to the enforcement of Section 2006.1 (Pool Heaters) automatically require enforcement of Section 1103.8?

A. The intent of the Residential Construction Advisory Committee (RCAC) and the Board of Building Standards, since the first adoption of the Residential Code of Ohio (RCO), has been that residential swimming pools would be outside the code's scope. If local political subdivisions wanted to regulate residential swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs they could adopt regulations and this action would not create a conflict with the RCO. Consequently, in the six locations in which the model code language did mention residential swimming pools, language was usually added that stated, "*Where regulations are adopted and enforced by the local jurisdiction*" with the intent to make it clear that the local political subdivision must act if it desired to regulate these pools.

If a community did want to regulate residential swimming pools, the local ordinance could be adopted to regulate these spas, pools, and hot tubs. Several jurisdictions, however, have adopted an appendix to the International Residential Code for residential swimming pools or have adopted other spa, pool, and hot tub requirements and did not need the RCO language to be applied. There are rules changes drafted that will remove these miscellaneous pool components from the RCO since the intent has been that they are not within the scope of the RCO.*

Q. Is a separate ordinance required in order to enforce Article 680 of the NEC and is its enforcement tied to Sections 1103.8 and 2006.1?

A. Again, it has been the intent that residential swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs are outside the code's scope. As such, these sections would only apply if the local jurisdiction had adopted a local ordinance for the regulation of residential swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs. In a similar manner to the answer above, if a political subdivision seeks to regulate residential swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs, it's ordinance should include reference to the electrical requirements that would apply; in this case NEC Article 680.

Q. Does it matter, with respect to code enforcement, if the residential swimming pool, spa, or hot tub is connected to and powered by the residential electrical service?

A. In a jurisdiction without locally adopted regulations, if the pool, spa, or hot tub lighting, controls, pumps, heater, etc. are connected to a dwelling's electrical service, the electrical connection, bonding, grounding, etc. must be inspected by the residential building department having jurisdiction up to any disconnect or switch at the pool equipment. Those components are being supplied by the *building service equipment* of the dwelling and should be inspected up to equipment disconnect or switch.

If, however, the pool's electrical service is provided independent of the dwelling's electrical service, the local ordinances would apply and those local ordinances should include any necessary electrical requirements, such as NEC Article 680, that would apply to the installation.

* The RCAC has been asked by the Board of Building Standards to reexamine whether swimming pools should continue to be excluded from the scope of the RCO, at least for their electrical components. The RCO will be taking up that discussion in the future.