

	STANDARD OPERATING POLICY AND PROCEDURE Community and Economic Development	Number: 9-1
Subject: Wall Barriers for Residential Pools		Approval Date: March 20, 2007
Approval: Chuck King, Building Official		Effective Date: March 20, 2007

1.0 PURPOSE

To address the use of Window Walls within a Wall Barrier system for Residential Pools

2.0 DISTRIBUTION

Public, Community and Economic Development (CED) Personnel

3.0 REVISION HISTORY

September 18, 2008
 February, 2016
 January, 2019 (code update)

4.0 CODE REFERENCE

2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, Section 305.4 Barriers Requirements

5.0 POLICY

In residential applications only, the *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code* provides an option to use the “structure wall” as part of the pool barrier if it meets specific minimum criteria as identified in Section 305.4. A design trend in residential construction is the use of window-walls. A window-wall is defined as; an area that contains more than one active door panel without interruption by a fixed panel in any one wall or any combination of walls. One of the primary uses of a window-wall system is to allow the indoor and outdoor spaces to be seamless. The intent is that the operable panels will remain in the open position for extended periods of time.

By appeal, when no other reasonable means of securing the swimming pool area is possible, the *building official* may allow the use of an alarm system as an alternative design method to meet pool barrier requirements (see Section 305.4). The notification alarm will sound if a door that provides access to the pool area is opened, which is intended to alert the residents that the barrier has been breached. Since the intent of a window-wall system is for the active window panels to remain in the open position, the pool barrier is compromised by the design and intent. This would ultimately leave the swimming pool unprotected from ready access, which would also create the potential for a serious life safety concern. Therefore, **a window-wall may not be used as a part of a wall barrier under any circumstances, nor will an alarm system be approved as an alternative design method for a window-wall system.**

A separate pool barrier, or an approved pool safety cover, listed and labeled in accordance with ASTM F1346, will be required when window-walls adjoin swimming pool and spa areas.