



Department of Permitting Services
Division of Building Construction
 255 Rockville Pike, 2nd Floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850

CODE INTERPRETATION/POLICY

Pool Barriers Constructed with Welded Wire Mesh		
Code/Year International Residential Code (IRC) 2009	Section of Code Section AG 105.2	Title of Code Section/Subsection Outdoor swimming pool
Statement/Background of Issue		
<p>Section AG 105 of IRC requires that outdoor swimming pools be surrounded by a barrier as prescribed. Many barriers have been constructed with a variety of combinations from wooden fences and wire mesh. This policy establishes a uniform method of construction for these barriers.</p>		
Division Interpretation/Policy		
<p>DPS accepts the wire mesh installed on wooden fences as pool barriers, including access gates, if they are constructed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The top of the barrier shall be at least 60 inches above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 0 inches measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool • The horizontal components of any barrier shall be located on the swimming pool side of the barrier and shall be so constructed as to not provide a climbable surface • The maximum vertical distance between grade and the bottom of the bottom of horizontal component of the barrier shall be 4 inches measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool • The posts must be minimum 4X4 inches, spaced at no greater than eight feet on center, set in concrete footings • The maximum gap of any openings in the fence must still not exceed 4 inches • The barrier shall not contain openings, handholds or footholds accessible from the exterior side of the enclosure that can be used to climb the fence or barrier • Wire mesh shall have a maximum mesh size of one and three-quarter inches measured horizontally and maximum size of 4 inches measured vertically • Wire mesh is to be securely fastened to the outside of posts and horizontal components. Top of wire mesh must be supported at the top by an horizontal component to which it is connected • Wire mesh shall be not less than 14 gage galvanized steel • No part of a barrier shall contain barbed wire, electrical wiring, sharp projections, or any other objects or materials that would create a danger to the safety of any persons or animals • Every barrier shall be constructed and maintained to be rigid and secure, able to resist any reasonable lateral forces that may be applied to the enclosure material 		
Interpretation/Policy No. BCP11-13	Date March 1, 2011	Division Chief Hadi Mansouri