

ANSI/APSP-14-2011 Standard for Portable Spa Energy Efficiency Approved

Alexandria, VA, Feb. 2- The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has approved the new ANSI/APSP 14-2011 Standard for Portable Spa Energy Efficiency. The standard covers the test procedures and methodology for determining the energy efficiency of self-contained portable electric spas and hot tubs, ultimately to improve upon their design and construction.

"This approval by ANSI validates the work of the APSP-14 standards writing committee to produce a new standard that addresses the energy efficiency of portable spas. This new standard will make the industry stronger," says Carvin DiGiovanni, APSP senior director, technical and standards.

The pool and spa industry's interest in new standards goes back several years to when the California Energy Commission (CEC) adopted new energy efficiency regulations for appliances under Title 20. When many portable spas did not pass the CEC compliance testing, spa manufacturers formed the APSP-14 committee under the auspices of APSP to resolve the problem. The committee, comprised of many industry portable spa manufacturers, found flaws in the testing procedures involving such issues as water volume, control of ambient temperature and spa size, and worked cooperatively with the CEC to develop more accurate measurements.

"The CEC testing results and protocols set the table for the beginning of APSP 14," explains DiGiovanni. "The committee and staff decided to capitalize on all the good work that had been done. We wanted to develop a standard that captured everything we did in California, fine tune the testing protocols and put it into an ANSI consensus standard and make it applicable to all 49 states," he says. We now have that consensus standard approved by ANSI.

Even before its ANSI approval, APSP-14 is being used as a benchmark. The U.S. Senate, for instance, is currently considering a bill that involves the energy efficiency of portable hot tubs that mirrors the APSP-14 standard. "The law also has a requirement that says if there's a new ANSI standard on energy, the regulators in charge of this law would defer to the new ANSI Standard 14, which now is a reality because of this ANSI approval," DiGiovanni notes.

Ultimately the ANSI/APSP 14-2011 standard will bring peace-of-mind to end users, DiGiovanni says. "The retailer and the homeowner want to be able to buy a portable spa and not be hampered by energy compliance problems later on with it not meeting the laws of their state. This new ANSI/APSP-14 standard gets us there."

About APSP

The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) is the world's largest international trade association representing the swimming pool, spa and hot tub industry. APSP's mission is promoting consumer safety and enhancing the business success of its members. Members adhere to a code of business ethics and share a commitment to public health and safety in the use of pools, spas and hot tubs. APSP member companies include manufacturers, distributors, manufacturers' agents, designers, builders, installers, retailers and service professionals. For more information, visit www.APSP.org.