



Contact: Lisa S. Grepps
Director, Marketing & Communications
(703)838-0083 Ext. 179
Lgrepps@apsp.org

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APSP TECHNICAL INTERIM AMENDMENT SCORES WIN FOR PORTABLE SPA INDUSTRY AND PROTECTS CONSUMERS

(ALEXANDRIA, VA)—The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals announces that its submitted Technical Interim Amendment (TIA) has been approved by the National Fire Protection Association, thereby eliminating an unnecessary economic burden on manufacturers and consumers of portable electric spas.

The TIA provides clarification to the NFPA's 2008 National Electrical Code that self-contained spas and hot tubs are exempt from the bonding grid requirements similar to what is required of pools. Specifically, the proposed TIA sought to modify Section 640.42(b) to create two exceptions such that certain listed self-contained on or above-grade outdoor spas and hot tubs would be exempt from the requirements for equipotential bonding of perimeter surfaces.

"This code had national implications for all manufacturers of hot tubs, and could have cost the portable spa industry hundreds of thousands of unnecessary dollars," said Carvin DiGiovanni, senior director, Technical and Standards at APSP. "This is a huge win for portable electric spa manufacturers and the consumers that enjoy them."

APSP is a member of the NEC Code Committee, along with others, to ensure that safety requirements are met without imposing unnecessary and burdensome requirements for the pool and spa industry. APSP member technical assistance, especially by Watkins Manufacturing, was instrumental in preparing this amendment.

"The safe and enjoyable use of spas and pools is a priority for members of APSP. As long as portable electric spas are in compliance to UL 1563 and designed and installed in accordance with ANSI 6, the manufacturer and spa owner can be assured that the spa meets the highest level of safety protection," DiGiovanni added.

APSP is the world's largest international trade association representing the swimming pool, spa, and hot tub industry. Its mission is to promote consumer safety, and enhance 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 about the APSP please visit www.apsp.org.

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