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For Immediate Release
June 22, 2011

ANSI/APSP/ICC-5 2011 REVISED STANDARD FOR INGROUND SWIMMING POOLS APPROVED
Builders Will Notice Subtle but Significant Changes

(ALEXANDRIA, VA)—A newly revised Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) standard has been approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and features significant changes that will impact pool builders across the nation. The Standard is published in partnership with the International Code Council (ICC).

The ANSI/APSP/ICC-5 2011 Standard for Residential Inground Swimming Pools covers specifications for new construction and remodeling of residential inground swimming pools including design, equipment, operation, and installation. The Standard applies to permanently installed residential inground swimming pools exceeding 24 inches in water depth and intended for noncommercial use.

ANSI/APSP/ICC-5 2011 is different from its 2003 predecessor in that the new standard addresses advances in technology and an improved understanding of how pools work. "The evolution of the industry in both products and processes were analyzed and addressed for improved clarity and ease of understanding," noted Dan Johnson, Chairman of the APSP-5 Standards Committee and owner and president of Swim Inc. "For example, salt-chlorine generators were not approved as an accepted method of sanitizing pools in the 2003 version of the Standard and now they are accepted." Another example is the referencing of the ANSI/APSP-7 Standard on Suction Entrapment Avoidance.

Johnson emphasized that builders need to read the entire Standard as there are subtle but significant changes. "In diving pools, the location of 'point A', the reference point from which all diving bowl dimensions are derived has been re-defined for improved accuracy in building diving pools," Johnson added.

The Standard also permits variations in equipment, and design, including special features such as, but not limited to ledges, beach entries, waterfalls, fountains, bridges, tanning shelves, grottos, seats, benches, in-pool tables and bar stools, walls over 12 inches elevated or angled walls or beams, scuba pools, spas, lap pools, swim spas, spillways, slides, coves, walls, etc. to accommodate special needs consideration and advances in technology.

Both the 2009 and 2012 International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC) reference the previous edition, ANSI/APSP-5 2003 Standard. Efforts are underway to get the 2011 edition into these codes. Additionally, APSP and ICC have collaborated to develop the first comprehensive model swimming pool and spa code, known as the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code. This landmark document incorporates and references language from ANSI/APSP standards such as ANSI/APSP-5 and ICC's model codes, to create a stand-alone code that is consistent with codes and standards from both organizations. This joint effort will lead to enhanced safety for pool and spa users around the world.

“Building in compliance with standards assures a higher level of quality, durability and efficiency which gives consumers peace of mind. For the builder, being in compliance with this Standard provides a powerful level of protection in that you are building with state of the art technology and delivering a safe, enjoyable pool,” Johnson said. “Standards set the benchmarks against which our products and services are measured.”

The newly revised and approved ANSI/APSP/ICC-5 2011 Standard is available for purchase and download at APSP.org/store.

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 APSP.org.

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