

rity equal to or greater than that of a hook-and-eye-type latch incorporating a spring-actuated retaining lever such as a safety gate hook.

5. Where a hinged gate is used with a mesh *barrier*, the gate shall comply with Section 305.3.
6. Patio deck sleeves such as vertical post receptacles which are placed inside the patio surface shall be of a nonconductive material.
7. Mesh fences shall not be used on top of on ground *residential pools*.

305.2.5 Closely spaced horizontal members. Where the *barrier* is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches (1143 mm), the horizontal members shall be located on the *aquatic vessel* side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1.75 inches (44 mm) in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75 inches (44 mm) in width.

305.2.6 Widely spaced horizontal members. Where the *barrier* is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches (1143 mm) or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75 inches (44 mm) in width.

305.2.7 Chain link dimensions. The maximum opening formed by a chain link fence shall be not more than 1.75 inches (44 mm). Where the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top and bottom which reduces the openings, such openings shall be not more than 1.75 inches (44 mm).

305.2.8 Diagonal members. Where the *barrier* is composed of diagonal members, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be not more than 1.75 inches (44 mm). The angle of diagonal members shall not be greater than 45 degrees (0.79 rad) from vertical.

305.2.9 Clear zone. There shall be a clear zone of not less than 36 inches (914 mm) around the exterior of the *barrier* and around any permanent structures or equipment such as pumps, *filters* and heaters that can be used to climb the barrier.

305.2.10 Poolside barrier setbacks. The *aquatic vessel* side of the required *barrier* shall be not less than 20 inches (508 mm) from the water's edge.

305.3 Gates. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Sections 305.3.1 through 305.3.3 and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the vessel and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device.

305.3.1 Utility or service gates. Gates not intended for pedestrian use, such as utility or service gates, shall remain locked when not in use.

305.3.2 Double or multiple gates. Double gates or multiple gates shall have at least one leaf secured in place and

the adjacent leaf shall be secured with a self-latching device. The gate and *barrier* shall not have openings larger than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the latch release mechanism. The self-latching device shall comply with the requirements of Section 305.3.3.

305.3.3 Latches. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from grade, the release mechanism shall be located on the vessel side of the gate at least 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate, and the gate and *barrier* shall not have openings greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism.

305.4 Structure wall as a barrier. Where a wall of a dwelling or structure serves as part of the *barrier*, doors and operable windows with a sill height of less than 48 inches (1219 mm) that provide direct access to the *aquatic vessel* through the wall, shall be equipped with one or more of the following:

1. An alarm that produces an audible warning when the door or its screen or window, is opened. The alarm shall be *listed* and *labeled* as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017. In dwellings or structures not required to be Accessible units, Type A units or Type B units, the deactivation switch shall be located 54 inches (1372 mm) or more above the threshold of the door. In dwellings or structures required to be Accessible units, Type A units or Type B units, the deactivation switch shall be located not greater than 54 inches (1372 mm) and not less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above the threshold of the door.
2. A safety cover that is *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with ASTM F 1346.
3. An *approved* means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, provided that the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Items 1 or 2.

305.5 Pool structure as a barrier. Where an onground *residential pool* structure is used as a *barrier* or where the *barrier* is mounted on top of the pool structure, the following shall apply:

1. An onground pool wall, itself, shall be permitted to be the *barrier* where the pool structure is on grade and the wall is at least 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade for the entire perimeter of the pool and complies with the requirements of Section 305.2.
2. Where the means of access is a *ladder* or steps, the *ladder* or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access or the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a *barrier* that meets the requirements of this section.
3. When the *ladder* or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4 inch (102 mm) diameter sphere.
4. The *barrier* shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

305.6 Natural barriers. In the case where the vessel area abuts the edge of a lake or other natural body of water, public