

COMMERCIAL POOL BARRIER REQUIREMENT CODES

FBC 454.1.3.1.9

Screened pool enclosures must be hardened on the bottom 3 feet (914 mm). Fencing consideration shall be given to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Publication, No. 362, March 2005, guidelines available from CPSC.gov; or Sections 454.2.17.1.1 through 454.2.17.1.8. Safety covers that comply with ASTM F1346-91 (Reapproved 2003), titled Safety Covers and Labeling Requirements for All Covers for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs, and available from ASTM.org, do not satisfy this requirement.

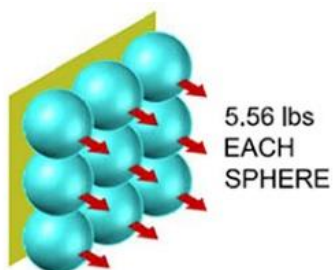
FBC 454.2.17.1.2

The barrier may not have any gaps, openings, indentations, protrusions, or structural components that could allow a young child to crawl under, squeeze through, or climb over the barrier as herein described below. One end of a removable child barrier shall not be removable without the aid of tools. Openings in any barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch diameter (102 mm) sphere.

Requirement

The design of the infill pickets of the barrier panel must not allow the young child to squeeze through. A picket design that complies with the 4 inch sphere rule may not comply with the squeeze through criteria. If the pickets can be spread apart where a child will be allowed to squeeze through, that design will not be approved. The infill design must be rigid enough to resist the ability to spread and allow a young child to squeeze through. What is rigid? What is the squeeze load to be applied? Both volumes of the code, the FBC and FBCR indicate 50 lbs PSF as being compliant for guard infill system designs that address fall protection. Using this as just a reference, the load will then not need to be greater than this.

The engineering logic for the force applied to a single 4" sphere is based on the relationship of (9) 4-in diameter spheres fitting within one square foot (area not to exceed 12 in. by 12 in.). Therefore, dividing the 50 lbs PSF by 9 results in a load value of 5.56 lbs per sphere.



The barrier is a safeguard and should be treated as such. The barrier is required to resist a young child from squeezing through. The product and design will be inspected for compliance in the field. We have come across products and designs that have been questionable. That is the reason for this notice. The applicant is responsible for a compliant product and design; by way of this notice, we are trying to avoid disapproving a product or design at time of Final inspection. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Building Official.

