



**Public Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs and Spas
2010 ADA Standards and Oregon Structural Specialty Code**

The March 2012 Federal adoption of the 2010 ADA Standards Update was an excellent opportunity to provide clarification regarding the overall regulation of public swimming pools, hot tubs and spas in the State of Oregon.

In short, the regulation of these features rests with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). This regulatory oversight is derived from Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 448.011 which states, in part, that the OHA shall make rules pertaining to:

"...[the] issuance of permits, design, construction, size, shape, purification equipment, piping, operation, sanitation and accident prevention for public swimming pools, public spa pools, public wading pools and bathhouses."

Therefore, rules pertaining to swimming pools, public spa pools, public wading pools and bathhouses that are established by OHA take precedence over any similar rule or provision promulgated by the Building Codes Division, with the single exception being the Oregon Electrical Safety Law.

Prior to the 2011 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC), Chapter 11 included a general provision requiring certain levels of accessibility to these features. As OHA is charged with such regulatory oversight, the division's adoption of International Building Code accessibility provisions does not include accessibility provisions for those features addressed in ORS 448.011.

OHA reports that accessibility for pools, hot tubs and spas must be in accordance with the federally adopted *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design*, available to view at ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm.

Swimming pool, hot tub and spa barriers that are installed in or on the lot of a one- and two-family dwelling, see Appendix G of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code as adopted by OAR 918-480-0005. OHA should be consulted for all other swimming pools

For questions regarding the regulation of public swimming pools, hot tubs and spas, contact: Oregon Health Authority Public Pool and Tourist Facility Program at 971-673-0442.

