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State of Oregon
Oregon Health Authority
OREGON PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

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PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION INFORMATION BULLETIN



INTERPRETATION MANUAL

CONSTRUCTION TOLERANCES / POOLS & SPAS

QUESTION:

What are the allowable construction tolerances for length, depth and width measurements in swimming pools and spas?

BACKGROUND:

The Division has recently (Editor's note - Prior to **8/1982**) been requested to address acceptable construction tolerances for length, width and depth measurements in swimming pools. The purpose of the request was to determine what variations, if any, the Division will accept during construction inspections of swimming pools. Inasmuch as most building codes allow a certain deviation from approved plans, construction tolerances are normally allowed by regulatory agencies.

After reviewing the following tolerances with builders on the Division's advisory committee, and other selected swimming pool builders throughout the state, tolerance limits were adopted.

Tolerances were updated in January 2012. They are mostly based on ANSI / APSP 1, Public Swimming Pools, but allowing a little more tolerance in some areas. Pools built after February 1, 2012 will be inspected using the additional new construction tolerances

INTERPRETATION

As of **August 16, 1982**, all constructed swimming pools and spa pools in the state of Oregon shall comply with the measurements established on the approved plans, unless deviation approval from the plans is specifically given by the Division [,or local public health authority,] prior to construction, within the following tolerance ranges:

1. Step riser heights - $\pm \frac{1}{2}$ inch (12.5 mm)
2. Water depths - ± 2 inches (50 mm)

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3. Lineal distances in pools (i.e.: length of the shallow end, length of (the) transition slope from shallow end to deep end, length of the diving well) - $\pm 1 \%$

Beginning **February 1, 2012**, the construction tolerances are clarified and new pools must also comply with the following.

Length – Overall	± 3 in. (76 mm)
Width – Overall	± 3 in. (76 mm)
Depth – > 6 feet deep (> 1.8m)	± 3 in. (76 mm)
Depth – < 6 feet deep (< 1.8m)	± 2 in. (51 mm)
Step treads and risers	$\pm \frac{1}{2}$ in. (13 mm)
Waterline – pools with adjustable weirs, level to within	$\pm \frac{1}{2}$ in. (13 mm)
Waterline – pools with non-adjustable skimming systems	$\pm \frac{1}{8}$ in. (3 mm)

In a skimmer pool, the waterline shall be determined at the mouth of properly installed skimmers. The waterline will not vary between any two skimmers more than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (13 mm).

VARIANCE:

The Division depends strongly on plan review and construction permits as a standard of construction. We are reluctant to consider any variances based on violation of the construction permit specifications.