CODE TOPICS

2020 FBC 7th ED, SECTION 454.2, RESIDENTIAL POOLS

RESIDENTIAL POOL STEPS

TOPIC BACKGROUND

The use of pool steps as the entry/exit in the shallow area of the pool is a relatively simple topic. There must be a means of entry/exit in the shallow end of the pool. This discussion refers to the use of pool steps for such entry/exit. Keep in mind, other options to steps exist. There are also some basic requirements of pool steps like tread and riser dimensions and uniformity.

WHAT THE CODE SAYS

First, 2020 FBC 7th Ed, Section 454.2.18 contains no real step criteria except multiple egress is required when the pool has two shallow ends [see other code topic]. All dimensional requirements for steps in a residential pool is contained in the ANSI/APSP/OCC-5 2011 adopted by the FBC.
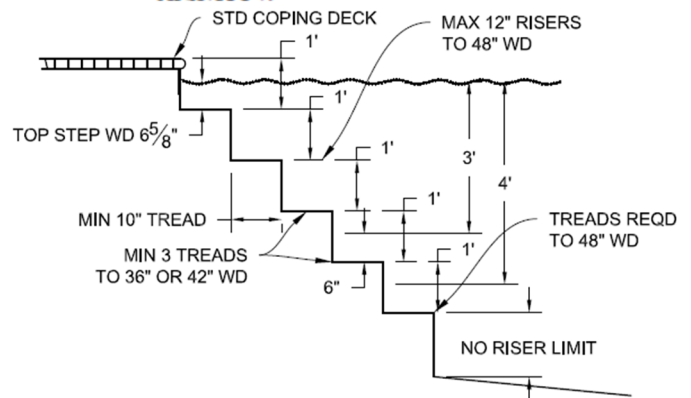
Key criteria are:

- Each step area is minimum 240 SQ IN, with minimum tread dimension of 10" (192 SQ IN, & 8" min if handrail is used).
- Must be minimum 24" width of travel from deck to bottom step, and a width of 24" at the bottom riser that is maximum 12". The pool slope may cause remaining height of the bottom riser to exceed 12".
- Steps must be located on the shallow side of the first slope change.
- Steps in the center length of the pool are allowed if they extend into the shallow area before the slope increases from the max 1:7 for shallow area.

Steps extend to minimum 48" water depth.

454.2.6 Private swimming pools.

454.2.6.1 Conformance standard. Design, construction and workmanship shall be in conformity with the requirements of ANSI/APSP/ICC 3, ANSI/APSP/ICC 4, ANSI/ APSP/ICC 5, ANSI/APSP/ICC 6, and ANSI/APSP/ICC 7.

REQUIRED AT PLAN REVIEW

Verify the minimum number and size of step treads are shown on the plan based on the water depth indicated. Verify steps are properly located in shallow area before a change in slope.

REQUIRED DURING INSPECTION

Simply view steps are installed according to plan and be aware of field changes during construction

Disclaimer: This is offered as summary and guidance on code requirements. This does not authorize a code violation.