



CODE TOPICS

2020 FBC 7th ED, SECTION 454.2, RESIDENTIAL POOLS

POOLS WITH 2ND SHALLOW END

TOPIC BACKGROUND

Many pool designs such as a “sport pool” may show the deep area in the middle with two shallow ends of the same depth. An interpretation from an ANSI Committee member says this applies to pools where the two shallow ends of the same depth.

WHAT THE CODE SAYS

ANSI/APSP/ICC-5 2011 says:

6 Entry/Exit

6.1 Entry/exit. All pools shall have a means of entry/exit in the shallow area(s) if water depth exceeds 24 in. (610 mm) at the shallowest point. The means of entry/exit shall be located on the shallow side of any first slope change. Pools having more than one shallow area, including but not limited to; center deep, play or sports pools, shall use the same means of entry/exit in all shallow areas.

2020 FBC 7th Ed, Section 454.2.18 says:

454.2.18 Ladders and steps.

All pools whether public or private shall be provided with a ladder or steps in the shallow end where water depth exceeds 24 inches (610 mm). In private pools where water depth exceeds 5 feet (1524 mm) there shall be ladders, stairs or underwater benches/ swim-outs in the deep end. Where manufactured diving equipment is to be used, benches or swim-outs shall be recessed or located in a corner.

Exception: In private pools having more than one shallow end, only one set of steps are required. A bench, swimout or ladder may be used at all additional shallow ends in lieu of an additional set of steps.

REQUIRED AT PLAN REVIEW

When the pool is shown with the deep area in the middle and shallow areas of the same depth, there needs to be a bench, steps, ladder or other means of egress stated in Section 6.1.2.

REQUIRED DURING INSPECTION

Verify depths and egress according to plan.

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

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