NC ACCESSIBILITY CODE

2012 NC Bldg Code Ch. 11
2009 ICC/ANSI A117.1
Mandatory: 1 Jun 2012

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2010 ADA STANDARDS:
- Mandatory 3/15/12
- Copy available: www.ada.gov

Pool Gate Latch Mounting Height

This topic is really a pre-summer topic, but consider it planning for next year, if that works better for you. Most inspectors, designers and contractors are familiar with **NCBC 1109.12 Exc. 7** which states:

Access door or gates in barrier walls and fences protecting pools, spas and hot tubs shall be permitted to have operable parts of the release of latch on self-latching devices at 54 inches (1370 mm) maximum and 48 inches (1219 mm) minimum above the finished floor or ground, provided the self-latching devices are not also self-locking devices, operated by means of a key, electronic opener, or integral combination lock.

So, the intent is to make it harder for a child to get into a pool area by raising the height of the operable part of the release latch. What is often inadvertently overlooked is the latter portion of the sentence that qualifies the exception. This is the portion stating: *provided the self-latching devices are not also self-locking devices, operated by means of a key, electronic opener, or integral combination lock*.

So, what if they are? Then **NCBC 1109.12 Exc. 7** is no longer applicable. The reason being that a child is not able to open the control at the lower level, so there is no need or requirement to raise the latching device to a higher level. Instead, **NCBC 1109.12** along with **ANSI 308** (reach range requirements) and **309** [operable parts] will be applicable to the self-latching/self-locking device used, i.e., a key, electronic opener or integral combination lock. No need to raise the lock or latch if it is not able to be opened anyway, is there?

R2/R3 Link to Trails + Greenways

Most existing paths from R2/R3 residential developments to adjacent trails and greenways are semi-code compliant in terms of width and slopes.

Remember, **NCBC 1109.14.3** and **ANSI A117.1** require this exterior connection to have landings at the top of ramps not exceeding 30' [**ANSI 405.7**], slopes not steeper than 1:12 [**ANSI 405.2**], and handrails where the vertical rise exceeds 6 inches [**ANSI 405.8**].

People with disabilities, temporary or permanent, children and adults, live in those same neighborhoods with the same expectation to use the recreational facilities as everyone else. Best to design with everyone in mind.

NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
OSFM
OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL
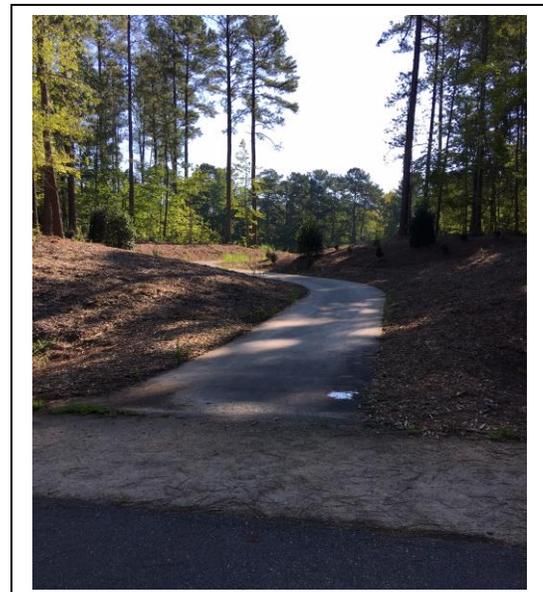
NCDOI/OSFM Move to 116 W. Jones St.

The Office of State Fire Marshal is in the process of moving to 116 West Jones Street in Raleigh. While the move is taking place in phases between now (some are there already) and Sept. 27th, the Interpretation Section is scheduled move to our new location around September 26th or earlier. E-mail addresses will remail the same.

The new main number for OSFM will be 919-647-0000. New individual phone numbers will be listed on the NCDOI website. The mailing address will remain the same as before:

Mail: 1202 MSC, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
Fed Ex: NCDOI/OSFM, 116 W. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27603

ANSI 403.3; 405.2 – Sidewalks + Ramps

Questions have come in from designers requesting clarification on the differences between sidewalks and ramps. Generically, when evaluating sidewalk vs. ramp situations, there are three pertinent sections in ANSI Ch. 4:

1. *ANSI 403.3 Slope. The running slope of walking surfaces shall not be steeper than 1:20. The cross slope of a walking surface shall not be steeper then 1:48.*
2. *ANSI 405.2 Slope. Ramp runs shall have a running slope greater than 1:20 and not steeper than 1:12. [Note: there is an exception you may wish to look at.]*
3. *ANSI 405.8 Handrails. Ramp runs with a rise greater than 6 inches shall have handrails complying with Section 505.*

If the slope of the walking surface is not steeper than 1:20, the surface can continue indefinitely without a landing surface. [ANSI 403.3]

If the slope of a ramp is greater than 1:20 and not steeper than 1:12, every 30 feet a landing is required. [ANSI 405.6]

If the intent is to provide a ramp without any handrails: provide a landing for every vertical rise of 6 inches, then continue on at 1:12 until the ramp has risen another 6 inches, stop, providing another landing, and continue on in the same manner repeating the process. [ANSI 405.8]

❖ So it is just a matter of how the sidewalk/ramp is intended to be designed.

7" FACE PLATE BELOW WITH MAGNETIC HOLD-OPEN DEVICES

ANSI 404.2.9 Door Surface – states that
*Door surfaces within
10" of the floor, measured vertically shall be a smooth
Surface on the push side extending the full width of the door.
Parts creating horizontal or vertical joints in such surface shall be
within 1/16" of the same plane as the other.*

NCBC 907.5.2.3.3 - Hotel Interconnecting Rooms

Q: In a hotel where a handicapped accessible room has a door interconnecting it with another room, do both rooms have to have audio/visual fire alarm devices or just the handicap accessible room?

A: The answer to the question involves who potentially occupies the interconnecting room. It is possible that a traveling companion in the interconnecting room may not be hearing- or visually-impaired. However, when the interconnecting door is open and both travelers are in the interconnected non-accessible room, audio-visual alarms shall still be available to the travelers in case an emergency event occurs while the non-hearing- or visually-impaired companion may be in the bathroom or temporarily out of the guestroom. Both rooms should have audio/visual fire alarm devices to be assured hearing- or visually-impaired persons will be alerted.