

CHAPTER 31
SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION

SECTION 3109.4.1.8, ITEM 1
IBC Interpretation No. 35-03
2000 Edition
Issued: 04-01-04

3109.4.1.8 Dwelling unit wall as a barrier. Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following shall apply:

- 1. Doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and its screen are opened. The alarm shall sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds immediately after the door is opened and be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal household activities. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm shall be equipped with a manual means to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last no more than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch shall be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door.
- 2. The pool shall be equipped with a power safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346.
- 3. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the administrative authority shall be accepted so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Section 3109.4.1.8, Item 1 or 2.

! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! !

Q: Where the wall of a dwelling unit serves as part of the barrier to a residential swimming pool, are the required door alarms permitted to be battery operated?

A: Yes. The provisions for barrier alarms in Item 1 of Section 3109.4.1.8 establishes when and where barrier alarms are required, as well as how the alarms must perform. The provisions do not stipulate a specific power source for the barrier alarms. The owner of the dwelling, or their agent, must provide sufficient documentation to verify that the electrical power source provided to the alarms will enable them to perform as required.

