

## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-32-08

October 13, 2009

The following is being offered in response to your letter requesting a formal interpretation of the 2003 International Residential Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code.

### Question 1:

Is the UL 1563, *Standard for Electric Spas, Equipment Assemblies and Associated Equipment*, as certified by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) a substitute for ANSI/NSPI-6 1999, *American National Standard for Portable Spas*, as per Section AG104.2, of the above referenced code?

### Answer 1:

Section R104.11, *Alternative Materials, Design and Methods of Construction and Equipment*, permits acceptance of a standard in lieu of specific requirements of the above referenced code. This code section allows the building official to accept products that are tested and listed by an approved agency.

### Question 2:

Is the spa dual drain separation distance of three feet from suction/drain covers per Section AG106.4, of the above referenced code, a code requirement for portable spas?

### Answer 2:

The building official may accept use of the UL 1563 Standard, per Section R104.11, of the above referenced code. UL 1563 Standard, Section 36.6, states specific requirements addressing this issue.

### Question 3:

Does placing a portable spa on an insulated surface eliminate the requirement for a grounding grid?

### Answer 3:

This question addresses Equipotential Bonding Requirements for portable spas. When the applicant files a building permit using the 2003 International Residential Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code, the spa electrical requirements were taken from the 2002 National Electrical Code. The 2002 National Electrical Code does not have requirements for bonding of spas.

When the applicant files a building permit using the 2003 International Building Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code, the spa electrical requirements are addressed in the 2005 National Electrical Code. The 2005 National Electrical Code has equipotential bonding requirements in Section 680.26(C).

The building official will review each portable spa installation in conformance with the applicable code requirements.