

Proposal Number: 2018-OA-016

Rule 68-072 - New

Description of change: Add new requirement for disconnecting means for pools and hot tubs

Proposed by: Electrical Safety Authority

Background:

Rules in Section 28 for disconnecting means for motors are not applicable to pool pumps or hot tubs, although they have traditionally been enforced with these requirements. When installers followed these rules it often meant a lockable disconnect was installed in a locked area such as a basement not easily accessible to service personal resulting in the temptation to service energized equipment. In addition the water in hot tubs is often required to be replaced by the owner requiring the disconnection of power to prevent damage to the equipment.

Rationale:

In accordance with this proposal, disconnecting means is not permitted to be located within the building if a pool, hot tub or spa is located outside of the building. The proposed change will allow access to disconnecting means to the outdoor pool, hot tub or spa without requiring access to the inside of a building, which may not be possible. The proposed change is meant to improve safety of maintenance personal to minimize chances of servicing energized equipment if the disconnecting means is not accessible.

Supporting information:

NEC 2017 has similar requirements for disconnecting means: NEC Clause 680.13 Maintenance Disconnecting Means and 680.8 Cord-and Plug-Connected Equipment.

CSA standard, C22.2 No. 218.1 Spas, hot tubs, and associated equipment requires a warning to disconnect the electric power before servicing. UL standard, UL 1563 Electric Spas, Equipment Assemblies, and Associated Equipment, requires each convertible or a permanently connected unit to be provided with an integral disconnect switch unless the unit is marked with a statement on the wiring diagram indicating the need for a disconnecting means that is located within sight from the equipment and at least 5 feet (1.52 m) from the inside walls of the pool, spa, or hot tub.

Proposed Change:

Add new Rule 68-072

68-072 Maintenance Disconnecting Means (Appendix B)

A disconnecting means rated to interrupt the connected load shall be provided for each pool pump, spa, and hot tub, and shall be:

- (a) readily accessible;
- (b) within sight from its equipment; and
- (c) located not closer than 1.5m from the inside walls of the pool, spa or hot tub unless behind a permanent barrier that will prevent the occupant from contacting the device

Add Appendix B note to Rule 68-072

Rule 68-072

For cord-connected pump, spa or hot tub, an attachment plug and receptacle are permitted to serve as disconnecting means.

For disconnecting means that include the GFCI, it is required to be located not less than 3 m from the inside wall of the pool, spa or hot tub as per Rule 68-068