

**FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION**  
**SWIMMING POOL ELECTRICAL SAFETY PROJECT**  
**CONCURRENT MEETING OF THE SWIMMING POOL TAC AND ELECTRICAL TAC**  
**OCTOBER 14, 2015**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2015**

**MEETING SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW**

On Wednesday, October 14, 2015 the Swimming Pool TAC and Electrical TAC met concurrently in Daytona Beach to develop recommendations regarding pool safety issues focused on the prevention of electrocution in swimming pools. At the initial scoping meeting held on September 28, 2015 the TACs agreed that the project scope was to focus on evaluation of whether to recommend a code amendment requiring low voltage lighting in residential pools for new construction (Phase I). In addition, it was agreed that additional electrical pool safety relevant topical issues including bonding, grounding, retrofitting of existing pools, and education would be considered as a second phase of the project (Phase II). At the October 14, 2015 meeting the TACs proposed and acceptability ranked options for low voltage lighting in residential pools for new construction. In addition, the TACs evaluated proposed options to address the other key topical issues, and ultimately developed a consensus package of recommendations for consideration by the Florida Building Commission. The TACs specific recommendations are as follow:

**Grounding**

The Electrical TAC and the Swimming Pool TAC voted unanimously to recommend that the Commission charge staff to work with the TAC chairs and in consultation with stakeholders to formulate a code amendment requiring that all electrical circuits feeding equipment that could potentially energize a pool have GFCI protection for new residential and commercial swimming pools (the goal is to fill in any gaps in the current Code).

**Education**

The Electrical TAC and the Swimming Pool TAC voted unanimously to recommend that the Commission support a comprehensive educational effort to ensure there is a consistent message to enhance pool electrical safety issues for existing and new pools by working with existing resources including educational providers and associations. The effort should include defining the problems, identifying solutions and communicating a consistent message to stakeholders (contractors, consumers, home inspectors, pool maintenance providers, etc.) through training courses, flyers, brochures, websites, etc. Key issues for education messaging include lighting, bonding, grounding, GFCI, maintenance of existing pools, and monitoring devices to detect stray currents in the pool water, etc.

### **Existing Swimming Pools**

The Electrical TAC voted 6-2 in favor (75%), to recommend the Commission charge staff to work with the TAC chair and in consultation with stakeholders to formulate a code amendment requiring existing commercial and residential swimming pools to have GFCI protection for replacement pool pump motors, if not already in place; to provide GFCI protection for the replacement of 120 volt pool lights when they are replaced; and, as part of the close out inspection ensuring that the existing bonding system is complete and terminated properly.

### **TAC ACTIONS**

*MOTION*—The Swimming Pool TAC voted unanimously, 8 - 0 in favor, to recommend the Commission approve the 2 consensus recommendations from the TAC (grounding and education).

*MOTION*—The Electrical Pool TAC voted unanimously, 8 - 0 in favor, to recommend the Commission approve the 3 consensus recommendations from the TAC (grounding, education, and existing swimming pools).