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Newsletter for Clarification TAS 242 & 1009

A note from Jeff Gutknecht RAS #472

My emphasis on this news letter is to clarify that **Non-accessible entry points** to a Swimming pool or spa are not required to meet Hand railing requirements of TAS 505.

The non-accessible entry steps are not required to meet TAS 504 for stair tread and rise.

242 Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, and Spas

242.1 General. Swimming pools, wading pools, and spas shall comply with 242.

242.2 Swimming Pools. At least **two accessible means of entry** shall be provided for swimming pools. Accessible means of entry shall be swimming pool lifts complying with 1009.2; sloped entries complying with 1009.3; transfer walls complying with 1009.4; transfer systems complying with 1009.5; and pool stairs complying with 1009.6. At least one accessible means of entry provided shall comply with 1009.2 or 1009.3.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Where a swimming pool has less than 300 linear feet of swimming pool wall, no more than **one accessible means of entry** shall be required provided that the accessible means of entry is a swimming pool lift complying with 1009.2 or sloped entry complying with 1009.3.

Non accessible entry points are any additional entry point over the required number and type described in 1009.

Notice that all the accessible entry methods into pools or spas are referenced in TAS/ADA 1009. The hand railing and the type and size of steps references in 1009 are referring **only** to the the required means of accessible entry types into a pool or spa.

The reason that I am clarifying that the other types of entry points into a pool or spa other than those in 1009 are **not** subject to TAS/ADA standards like Stairs TAS 504 or hand-railing like TAS 505, is because sometimes there is a **common misunderstanding** that if you have steps or hand railing into a pool then these steps and hand railings need to comply with the applicable TAS or ADA standards. This is not the case.

Some misunderstandings are created because, if you have steps, then you would have to have the 4" to 7" height rule with the 11" tread, or because you have hand railing, then you are required to have one hand rail on each side of the step. This would not be the case in the non accessible entry points. The distance between the hand railings references in 1009 (33" to 36") or (24") would only be applied to the required entry point type steps. The dimensions between hand railing would **not** be required to the hand railing in the non accessible entry point steps. On the non accessible entry type steps, you may only have one hand rail if you like.

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