



New Castle County Government Center  
87 Reads Way  
New Castle, DE 19720  
Department of Land Use - Building Inspections

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Date: **August 12, 2010**  
Subject: **Hazardous locations for glazing**  
References: **2006 International Residential Code**

This Staff Code Interpretation is intended to be used to clarify Section R308.4, Item 9 (Hazardous locations) in the above referenced Code Edition.

Below is the exact text from the sections of the 2006 International Residential Code in question.

***Section R308.4, Hazardous location. The following shall be considered specific hazardous locations for the purposes of glazing.***

***9. Glazing in walls and fences enclosing indoor and outdoor swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas where the bottom edge of the glazing is less than 60 inches above a walking surface and within 60 horizontally of the water's edge. This shall apply to single glazing and all panes in multiple glazing.***

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**Question:** A hot tub has been installed on a deck outside an existing dwelling. The hot tub/edge of water is located about four feet from a window that is not tempered. The window is located on an exterior wall of the existing single family dwelling. The hot tub is located outside but is not enclosed by the exterior wall. Does this window need to be tempered?

**Answer:** Before safety glazing is required, the glazed panels must be within 5 feet (1524 mm) above the decking for a pool, hot tub or spa. Figure R308.4(8) illustrates the requirements of Item 9. This provision applies to walls and fences adjacent to indoor or outdoor swimming pools, hot tubs and spas.

**NCC Stance:** The provisions of item 9 apply to all adjacent glazing around swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas. It is not necessary to the aquatic vessel to be enclosed.

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**Code Updates:** This section has been reorganized with the adoption of the 2015 IRC but this code interpretation is unaffected by the change.

**STAFF CODE INTERPRETATION**