August 29, 2003

The following is offered in response to your request for a formal interpretation of the provisions of Section 106.1 of the 1997 International Plumbing Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

Question: A swimming pool is being constructed with no connections to the building's potable water supply or sanitary drainage system. Is a plumbing permit required for the installation of swimming pool water recirculating piping?

Answer: No. A plumbing permit would be required only in the event that connections are made to the water supply or sanitary drainage system. Section 106.1 of the 1997 International Plumbing Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code requires a permit for work on plumbing systems only when the installation is regulated by the plumbing code. The portions of the plumbing code pertaining to piping regulate water supply and distribution for utilization in connection with human occupancy and habitation and regulate sanitary drainage. If the swimming pool piping is not connected to either the water supply or the sanitary drainage system, the code does not regulate the piping and a plumbing permit (and any associated inspection) is therefore not required. Permits for the structure of the pool itself and for the electrical work associated with the pool must, however, be obtained.