



## Marion County Building Department

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### Alternative Method of Providing an Equipotential Bonding Grid Per The 2008 National Electrical Code

The Florida Building Commission has recently adopted the alternate method to provide an equipotential bonding grid as described in the 2008 National Electrical Code, Article 680.26(B)(2). This alternate method is only to be used when there is no structural reinforcing steel present in the three foot perimeter surface area around a pool or spa. If reinforcing steel is present, then that reinforcing steel **must be used** to form the equipotential bonding grid.

If no reinforcing steel is present in the perimeter surface the following steps will be necessary:

- The contractor must request an additional Equipotential Bonding Grid Inspection - #206 prior to preparing the pool or spa deck area for the Conventional Slab Inspection - #125.
- At the time of the Equipotential Bonding Grid Inspection the outer perimeter of the pool deck must be established by either form boards or a string line. The top of the form boards or string line must be set at the finished deck elevation
- Within the perimeter of the pool or spa deck the sub-grade must be completely graded to its finished elevation
- A 4- to 6-inch deep trench between 18 and 24 inches from the vertical perimeter wall of the pool shell must extend around the full perimeter of the pool or spa
- A #8 AWG bare solid copper bonding conductor must be laid in the bottom of the entire length of the trench and extended to the pool or spa equipment location
- The pool or spa shell steel, pool or spa light fixtures, all metal components that are embedded in the pool or spa deck, and any metal products that are within five [5] feet horizontal dimension from the vertical perimeter wall of the pool or spa must be connected with a #8 AWG bare solid copper bonding conductor to the copper bonding conductor in the bottom of the trench. The connections must be made by listed direct burial clamps.
- The #8 AWG bare solid copper bonding conductor must also be attached to the pool or spa shell reinforcing steel at a minimum of four points uniformly spaced around the perimeter of the pool or spa.
- After completing the above listed installation and passing the Equipotential Bonding Grid Inspection - #206 proceed with the preparations required for the Conventional Slab Inspection - #125.

The current method consisting of 6x6 by 10x10 welded wire mesh embedded in the concrete deck is an acceptable method to meet the National Electrical Code, Article 680.26 requirements. Using this method would eliminate the need for the additional Equipotential Bonding Grid Inspection and all the installation items listed above.

If a contractor elects to use the alternate method it will be his/her responsibility to see that the additional Equipotential Bonding Grid Inspection is properly requested and performed. If this inspection is not performed then the Building Department's Missed Inspection Policy requirements will have to be met. (Requirements include a sealed engineer's or architect's letter.)

