



**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY/CITY OF VERO BEACH  
BUILDING DIVISION**

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**Pool Barrier Informational Bulletin**

February 2015

From: Scott McAdam, CBO, MCP, Building Official  
To: All Permit Applicants  
Subject: Information/Clarification/Parameters for Pool Barrier “Squeeze Through”

This Informational Bulletin is directly related to the “Pool Safety Barrier FBC Residential 4101.17.2 Squeeze Through” Notice that was issued on 11/25/13.

In order to provide some clarification and parameters for what is acceptable for picket design relating to pool barriers, the Building Division is providing the following guidelines. If the design falls within these parameters the installation will be deemed acceptable. If the design falls outside these parameters it is recommended that you discuss the proposed design with the Building Division.

All aluminum fence pool barrier permit applications must include a document that indicates the design of the fence system including height, picket and rail design, spacing between pickets and rails, posts, gates, latch and lock, bottom clearance dimension, etc. The size of all members including rail, post and picket, including wall thickness must also be included. Information directly from the manufacture with all these details and specifications is the suggested submittal format. These details and specifications are readily available from all the manufactures.

The following lists the parameters/guidelines for acceptable aluminum fence pool barrier “squeeze through” design criteria:

1. 4 foot high
2.  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch x  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch picket with minimum wall thickness 0.05 inches spaced with maximum  $3\frac{13}{16}$  inch between pickets
3.  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch x  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch picket with minimum wall thickness 0.05 inches spaced with maximum  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inch between pickets
4. Other designs – it is highly recommended these designs be reviewed by the Building Division prior to permitting for acceptance

If the design is shown to fall within the above parameters it will be deemed to comply. This should address a high percentage of the typical aluminum pool fence barrier designs.

Notes:

1. The Building Division has found many variances in picket spacing for many products that are designed with a  $3\frac{7}{8}$  inch to 4 inch spacing that are not consistent and have issues with the 4 inch and the “squeeze through” criteria.
2. There are many variances with the lengths of pickets affecting the strength and flexibility.
3. Material wall thickness also greatly affects the strength and flexibility.