

LOCATION OF LIGHT SWITCHES WITHIN 1 m of HOT TUBS

Question #1:

A question regarding proximity of light switches to hot tubs. Rule 30-326(3) has a 1 metre distance restriction (or within reach of) on switches controlling luminaires in damp etc. locations. However it only applies to showers, or just plain bath tubs. Frequently we see hot tub installations where the installer has simply plunked the tub down on an existing pre wired deck. The hot tub is now closer than 1 metres (or within reach of) to a light switch controlling a luminaire in a damp location. Is there a rule in the CEC that prevents that switch location?

Answer (Reasoning):

- 1.) - By definition a pool is deemed to be a hot tub. This means that if no specific rule is lodged in the subsection, Spas and Hot tubs, we may use general rules applying to pools.
- 2.) - Rules do not exist in Section 68, nor are there referenced rules to accept or prohibit the placement of switches near hot tubs.
- 3.) - Rule 68-068(7)(c) requires that electrical equipment within 3 m of the pool walls and not "suitably separated" from the pool be protected by a GFCI.

Answer:

Switches **may be placed within 3 m** of a hot tub, if the circuit is protected by a GFCI.

QUESTION #2:

May a **receptacle be placed within 1.5 metres** of a pool (hot tub)?

Answer Reasoning:

1. Spas and Hot Tubs, 68-402(2), refers to 68-064 for guidance in receptacle placement.
2. 68-064 **prohibits receptacles within 1.5 metres** of a pool (hot tub).
3. And, receptacles between 1.5 m and 3 m from the pool (hot tub) must be GFCI protected.

ANSWER:

Receptacles have to be more than 1.5 metres from a hot tub.

SUMMARY: When GFCI protected, switches can be within 1.5 metres of a hot tub; and, receptacles have to be more than 1.5 metres from a hot tub.