

**Excerpts from Article 680, National Electric Code 2017 Edition
(Regarding Electronic Ignition within 5' of a Swimming Pool or Spa)**

680.22(B)(7)

(7) Low-Voltage Gas-Fired Luminaires, Decorative Fireplaces, Fire Pits, and Similar Equipment. Listed low-voltage gas-fired luminaires, decorative fireplaces, fire pits, and similar equipment using low-voltage ignitors that do not require grounding, and are supplied by listed transformers or power supplies that comply with 680.23(A)(2) with outputs that do not exceed the low-voltage contact limit shall be permitted to be located less than 1.5 m (5 ft) from the inside walls of the pool. Metallic equipment shall be bonded in accordance with the requirements in 680.26(B). Transformers or power supplies supplying this type of equipment shall be installed in accordance with the requirements in 680.24. Metallic gas piping shall be bonded in accordance with the requirements in 250.104(B) and 680.26(B)(7).

(C) Switching Devices. Switching devices shall be located at least 1.5 m (5 ft) horizontally from the inside walls of a pool unless separated from the pool by a solid fence, wall, or other permanent barrier. Alternatively, a switch that is listed as being acceptable for use within 1.5 m (5 ft) shall be permitted.

(D) Other Outlets. Other outlets shall be not less than 3.0 m (10 ft) from the inside walls of the pool. Measurements shall be determined in accordance with 680.22(A)(5).

Informational Note: Other outlets may include, but are not limited to, remote-control, signaling, fire alarm, and communications circuits.

680.23 Underwater Luminaires. This section covers all luminaires installed below the maximum water level of the pool.

(A) General.

(1) Luminaire Design, Normal Operation. The design of an underwater luminaire supplied from a branch circuit either

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE 2017 Edition

680.23(A)(2)

(2) Transformers and Power Supplies. Transformers and power supplies used for the supply of underwater luminaires, together with the transformer or power supply enclosure, shall be listed, labeled, and identified for swimming pool and spa use. The transformer or power supply shall incorporate either a transformer of the isolated winding type, with an ungrounded secondary that has a grounded metal barrier between the primary and secondary windings, or one that incorporates an approved system of double insulation between the primary and secondary windings.

680.2 Definitions

Low Voltage Contact Limit. A voltage not exceeding the following values:

- (1) 15 volts (RMS) for sinusoidal ac
- (2) 21.2 volts peak for nonsinusoidal ac
- (3) 30 volts for continuous dc
- (4) 12.4 volts peak for dc that is interrupted at a rate of 10 to 200 Hz

680.26(B)

(B) Bonded Parts. The parts specified in 680.26(B)(1) through (B)(7) shall be bonded together using solid copper conductors, insulated covered, or bare, not smaller than 8 AWG or with rigid metal conduit of brass or other identified corrosion-resistant metal. Connections to bonded parts shall be made in accordance with 250.8. An 8 AWG or larger solid copper bonding conductor provided to reduce voltage gradients in the pool area shall not be required to be extended or attached to remote panelboards, service equipment, or electrodes.

680.24 Junction Boxes and Electrical Enclosures for Transformers or Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters.

(A) Junction Boxes. A junction box connected to a conduit that extends directly to a forming shell or mounting bracket of a no-niche luminaire shall meet the requirements of this section.

(1) Construction. The junction box shall be listed, labeled, and identified as a swimming pool junction box and shall comply with the following conditions:

- (1) Be equipped with threaded entries or hubs or a nonmetallic hub
- (2) Be comprised of copper, brass, suitable plastic, or other approved corrosion-resistant material
- (3) Be provided with electrical continuity between every connected metal conduit and the grounding terminals by means of copper, brass, or other approved corrosion-resistant metal that is integral with the box

(2) Installation. Where the luminaire operates over the low voltage contact limit, the junction box location shall comply with (A)(2)(a) and (A)(2)(b). Where the luminaire operates at the low voltage contact limit or less, the junction box location shall be permitted to comply with (A)(2)(c).

(a) *Vertical Spacing.* The junction box shall be located not less than 100 mm (4 in.), measured from the inside of the bottom of the box, above the ground level, or pool deck, or not less than 200 mm (8 in.) above the maximum pool water level, whichever provides the greater elevation.

(b) *Horizontal Spacing.* The junction box shall be located not less than 1.2 m (4 ft) from the inside wall of the pool, unless separated from the pool by a solid fence, wall, or other permanent barrier.

(c) *Flush Deck Box.* If used on a lighting system operating at the low voltage contact limit or less, a flush deck box shall be permitted if both of the following conditions are met:

- (1) An approved potting compound is used to fill the box to prevent the entrance of moisture.
- (2) The flush deck box is located not less than 1.2 m (4 ft) from the inside wall of the pool.

(B) Other Enclosures. An enclosure for a transformer, ground-fault circuit interrupter, or a similar device connected to a conduit that extends directly to a forming shell or mounting bracket of a no-niche luminaire shall meet the requirements of this section.

(1) Construction. The enclosure shall be listed and labeled for the purpose and meet the following requirements:

- (1) Equipped with threaded entries or hubs or a nonmetallic hub
- (2) Comprised of copper, brass, suitable plastic, or other approved corrosion-resistant material
- (3) Provided with an approved seal, such as duct seal at the conduit connection, that prevents circulation of air between the conduit and the enclosures