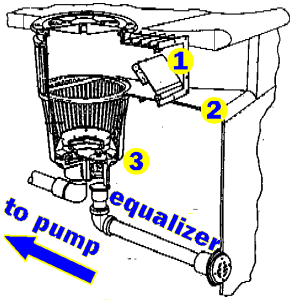


Skimmer Equalizer Lines

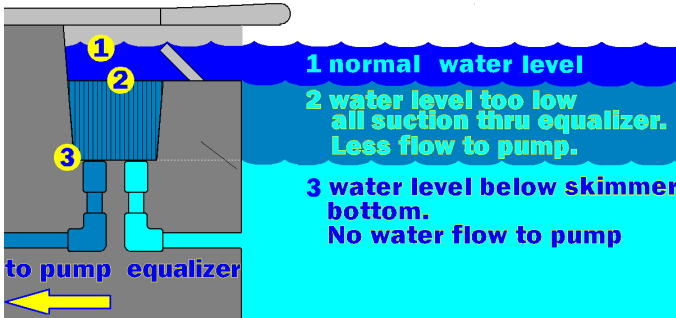


A skimmer with an equalizer line is illustrated.

- (1) At normal operating level most of the suction enters the skimmer at the top.
- (2) If water loss in the pool drops the level to the bottom of the skimmer opening then the only opening from the pump to draw water is the equalizer pipe.
- (3) If the water level continues to drop another 6-8 inches to the bottom of the skimmer then no water can flow to the pump.

Equalizers can be an entrapment hazard.

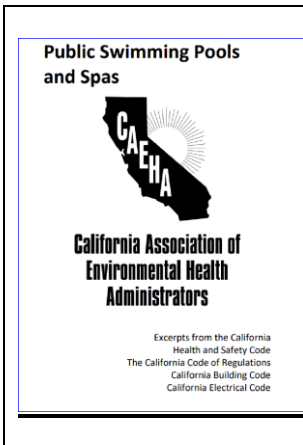
An equalizer is essentially a drain mounted on a wall.



Rapid water losses are rare. Damage from dramatic water losses are usually prevented by installing an autofill or some type of warning system.

The sole purpose of the equalizer is to protect a pump.

Why install a potential human body entrapment hazard solely to protect a replaceable piece of equipment?



California Public Pool Code

makes equalizers optional but requires split suction **if used**.

3136B.1 Surface skimmers. Each surface skimmer shall comply with the following provisions:

1. The skimmer shall be recessed into the pool wall; and
2. The skimmer shall be individually adjustable for the rate of flow with either an external or internal device; and
3. ***IF USED***, a skimmer equalizer suction outlet shall be connected to at least two suction grate assemblies that meet the ANSI/APSP-16 2011 performance standard and are located at least 3 feet (915 mm) apart in any dimension between the suction outlets

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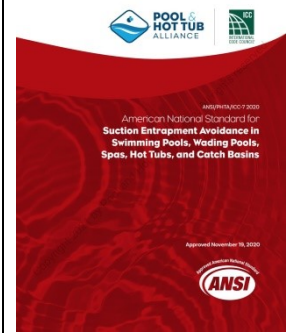
315.5 Equalizers.
Equalizers on skimmers **SHALL NOT** be permitted.



ANSI/APSP/ICC-7 Standard for Suction Entrapment Avoidance October 2013 – Page 6

4.5.1 Skimmer Equalizer Lines.

- Skimmer equalizer lines **SHALL NOT** be used on new construction.
- Existing equalizer(s) shall comply with all submerged suction outlet requirements of this standard.



California, Florida, along with The International Code Council (ICC), The American National Standards Institute (ANSI), The Pool and Hot Tub Alliance PHTA (formerly the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP) recognized that a potential entrapment hazard installation is not offset by a rare potential equipment loss.

As more cities adopt the ICC code, I recommend avoiding the installation of new skimmer equalizers. Existing equalizers should be abandoned by during remodeling by installing a plug in the skimmer and far enough into the pool wall so that the end of the pipe can be covered by plaster.