680.42(B) Outdoor Installations. Bonding.

A self-contained spa or hot tub now does not require an equipotential bonding grid. The 2014 NEC has incorporated a Tentative Interim Amendment from the 2011 NEC that permits a self-contained spa or hot tub to be installed on or above grade without a connection to an equipotential bonding grid.

In order to install a spa or hot tub without an equipotential bonding grid underneath the perimeter surfaces, the spa or hot tub must meet the following conditions:

- It must be self-contained and listed for aboveground use.
- It cannot be identified for indoor use only.
- It must be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- The top rim of the tub must be a minimum of 28 inches above any surface that extends up to 30 inches horizontally from the spa or hot tub.

Click to **Enlarge**; Mouse Over to **Zoom**

In certain instances, an aboveground spa or hot tub does not require equipotential bonding of perimeter surfaces.

Requiring an equipotential bonding grid around a hot tub that was installed above ground usually meant cutting the concrete around the spa or hot tub and installing a bare No. 8 AWG copper conductor. This added considerable expense and a lot of extra work to the installation.

There had not been any reported incidents of people getting shocked in an aboveground spa that could be tied to the lack of an equipotential bonding grid. Without proof that installing an equipotential bonding grid around a spa or hot tub reduced the shock hazard and increased safety for the general public, the NEC Code panels decided to do away with the requirement for an equipotential bonding plane for self-contained spas or hot tubs installed above ground.

Electrical Continuing Education for License Renewal: 680.42(B) Outdoor Installations. Bonding. Question

Which of the following conditions would permit a hot tub to be installed outdoors without an equipotential bonding grid?

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