



Yuma County, Arizona
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

2703 S. Avenue B • Yuma, Arizona 85364

Harold Aldrich
Director
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrative Opinion File
FROM: Monty M. Stansbury, Planning Director
SUBJECT: Revised Interpretation of Zoning Ordinance for The Location of Pool Mechanical Equipment
DATE: September 19, 2002

This opinion replaces the memorandum dated November 8, 2000 that was directed to the attention of Inju Rose.

In support of information and clarification offered by the Chief Building Official the following shall be administered unless otherwise changed or ordered by appropriate appeal. A copy of the memo from the Chief Building Official is attached.

Section 1102.02(G) of the Yuma County Zoning Ordinance reads, "Compressor units, condensing units, cooling towers, evaporative condensers or any similar devices, shall be located no closer to any interior lot line than the minimum setback required for the principal building."

Finding: A swimming pool pump is not a similar device such as a compressor, it does not handle gases in a manner of causing liquids or solids to form, and the dangers associated with swimming pool pumps are not deemed equal or to greater in comparison to compressors or condensers. Therefore, this type of apparatus is determined to be exempt and subject only to being set a minimum of three (3) feet from any lot line in accordance with 1102.02(F) of this same Ordinance.

In addition, this opinion does recognize the warnings listed by the respective manufacturers for pumps and filtration equipment as having a potential release of pressures capable of causing harm to the general public. And as such, this opinion strongly suggest the placement of a barrier wall for the benefit of any adjoining property when the installation of this equipment meets the minimum established separation requirements as outlined above.

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Monty Stansbury, Planning Director  
FROM: *CS* Curtis Cansler, Chief Building Official  
DATE: August 20, 2002  
SUBJECT: Swimming Pool Pumps

In answer to your question, swimming pool pumps and pool filters are not similar devices as compressors or condensers by definition.

As defined in Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language a compressor or condenser changes gases into liquids or solids through pressurization. As defined in Means Illustrated Construction Dictionary Third Edition Unabridged a compressor is a machine that compress air or gases into liquids or solids, and a condenser is a heat exchanger in a refrigeration system that removes heat from the high pressure gas and transforms it into a cool liquid.

As defined in Means Illustrated Construction Dictionary Third Edition Unabridged a pump is used compress or move fluid.

A swimming pool pump circulates water through a filter to remove any unwanted debris and back into the swimming pool. There is no compressing other than the filtering process and in what little friction that is in the piping (approximately 25 to 35 psi).

In my opinion a swimming pool pump and filter are not similar devices as compressors and condensers. The dangers and offensive natures inherent in compressors and condensers are not present in swimming pool pumps or swimming pool filter equipment.

The heating units on swimming pools are another issue. Depending on the size and type of the unit the dangers are varied. I would recommend them to be setback according to their manufactured installation manuals and their approved listings.

If I can be of any other assistance please give me a call.