

# ISPE NEWS



Educating and Training  
Swimming Pool and  
Hot Tub Engineers

January 2024 Vol. 34 No. 4

SPATEX 2024

ISPE Awards

The 2024 ISPE  
Sponsor Board



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## From the Editor

They say all good things must come to an end and in this issue (see page 31) you will read that after nearly thirty five years of working for the Institute, I have decided to retire. Plans are well underway to find my replacement(s), but rest assured nothing much will change for the next few months, at least.

Looking towards the coming months, I will be on the ISPE stand at SPATEX 2024 (Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February at the Coventry Building Society Arena) where you can attend some of the twenty ISPE Workshops (in Technical Arena One) and/or the other educational seminars organised by SPATEX in Technical Arena Two. This will be followed by the 2024 Back-to-Basics/Revision Seminar (free to ISPE student members) on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February. In March we have the ISPE Student Exams on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> (all ISPE student members should have received a letter about this, together with a booking form. If you have not received one, contact the ISPE office now!)

The Institute's 131<sup>st</sup> One-Day Seminar will be on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Programmes have been sent to all ISPE members but may be downloaded from the Diary Dates section of the ISPE website ([www.ispe.co.uk](http://www.ispe.co.uk)).

Please remember that all ISPE events are open to ISPE members and non-members, so if you have a friend or work colleague, do bring them along (pre-booked, of course!) and introduce them to ISPE. Anybody in the pool and spa industry and the associate trades will always be made very welcome and if anyone is thinking about joining the ISPE, do ask for more details.

In this issue we are pleased to feature some amazing pool projects, product news and updates on what's been going on in and around the trade.

I hope you all have a prosperous new season and hope to see some of you at the events mentioned above.

In the meantime, keep busy!

**Ross Alcock - January 2024.**

### **The ISPE Council of Management**

#### **Officers of the Council**

President - Jimmy Lamb, FISPE

Vice-President - Bob Judd, FISPE

Immediate Past-President - Philip Barlow, FISPE

Honorary Treasurer - Ian Betts, FISPE - Company Secretary - Chris Carr, FISPE

#### **Elected Members of the Council**

Will Dando, FISPE - Colin Day, FISPE - Howard Gosling BSc, FISPE - Colin Jenkinson, FISPE -

Shaun Keay, MISPE - Alex Kemsley, MISPE - Glyn Lucas, MISPE - Kim Mumford, MISPE -

John Scott, FISPE - Malcolm Sharp, Hon. FISPE - Ben Studdy, FISPE

**General Secretary - Ross Alcock**

The Institute of Swimming Pool Engineers Limited, P.O. Box 3083, Norwich, Norfolk NR6 7YL

**Tel: 01603 499 959 [www.ispe.co.uk](http://www.ispe.co.uk) Email: [ross@ispe.co.uk](mailto:ross@ispe.co.uk)**

#### **NOTICE TO ALL READERS**

Articles and advice in the ISPE Magazine are for guidance only. Further professional advice should always be sought before acting upon, or refraining from acting upon, a course of action. Health & Safety is of paramount importance and the correct PPE (personal protective equipment) should always be utilised before undertaking any job.

**If in doubt, ASK!**

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## Front Cover Pool Project

The client knew exactly what he wanted from his indoor pool, having previously enjoyed an outdoor pool constructed by Tanby at this property many years ago. We had worked with the architect on several other projects. Working alongside the client and the design team we all knew exactly what to expect from each other, which is always a great starting point. When the original property was demolished to be replaced with a modern mansion, Tanby Pools were employed again.

The basement was designed with insulated blocks and a concrete infill. This wasn't suitable for our pool construction, so a Shotcrete shell was installed with the plantroom at the side. Being deck level on two sides, a polycarbonate balance tank was installed in the plantroom, fed by two 8mm slot deck level gullies. The feature wall on the non-accessible side of the pool was a large expanse of marble and it was decided to add three slot flumes for hydrotherapy and to soothe the soul with relaxing sounds. A spa was added to the design for further hydrotherapy and wellness. An Oase slatted cover adds both economical running costs and a very slick appearance as it disappears behind the entry steps into the floor pit below.

This pool was the Supreme Winner of the British Outstanding Pool of the Year 2023.

### **Client testimonial**

'I would like to thank Tanby Pools for our magnificent finished pool. The workmanship of our pool is tremendous and your attention to detail has surpassed our high standards.

A particular thank you to Martin and Vincent for all their technical and aesthetic know-how; the management and staff were always patient in answering the many questions that arose from subcontractors during the process and we were kept well informed.

The Tanby team were very consistently efficient, hard working and showed planning expertise.

The consistent expertise was evident from the initial quotation process to the actual handover. We were particularly impressed by how Tanby Pools were able to adjust their planning to accommodate the work of other sub-contractors. We have also been impressed with the after-service we have received when we have required additional support/-advice since installation.

The finished pool is of a very high quality and it adds to the entire house as a centrepiece of functional art for entertaining and exercise.

It has been a pleasure working with the Tanby team who have shown great expertise and empathy in the entire process and we would highly recommend your services to potential clients. Thank you again for our great pool. I try to swim in it every day and I'm extremely happy with it.'

For more information contact:

<http://www.tanbypools.co.uk/>

Tel No: +44 (0) 1883 622335.

*If you have a pool project you would like to see featured on the front cover or within the ISPE Magazine, do get in touch.*

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# SPATEX 2024

## 28 reasons why attending the 28th SPATEX is a sound business decision

Christmas and New Year done and dusted; set your calendar for the industry's biggest diary date of the year - SPATEX 2024 - Tuesday 6th to Thursday 8th February at the Coventry Building Society Arena.



Need convincing? Read on ...

1. More exhibitors than ever before in SPATEX's 28-year history.
2. The line-up includes twenty-nine new companies that have never exhibited at SPATEX before.
3. Well over 50 percent of the exhibits are new or never seen at SPATEX.
4. First European show of 2024: the first opportunity to view the latest products and innovations for the season ahead.
5. Cut bills and save energy: focus on sustainability.
6. Upskill: SPATEX hosts the UK's best source of FREE education and training with a double seminar programme led by leading industry experts.
7. ISPE technical workshops on all three days of the show in Arena One.
8. Gain CPD points by attending the ISPE (Institute of Swimming Pool Engineers), PWTAG (Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group) and STA (Swimming Teachers Association) seminars.
9. Save money: exclusive visitor discounts, offers and competitions.
10. Impartial advice: from leading industry representatives and associations.
11. New Product Zone: highlighting the most innovative products of the year, sponsored by Swimming Pool News.
12. View 2023's award winning installations: the British Pool and Hot Tubs Awards, hosted by SPATA and BISHTA, Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6.45pm.
13. Connect with the global community: exhibitors from 11 countries.
14. Everything under the water leisure umbrella: every sector of the water leisure industry is represented from small projects to Olympic sized pools.
15. A sea of spas: over a third of exhibitors will be exhibiting spas, hot tubs, and spa-related products.
16. A show with gravitas: esteemed industry associations - BSPF, ISPE, SPATA, PWTAG, STA, RLSS, LCA, WMSoc and IOS in attendance and hosting seminars.
17. Gauge the industry's temperature: exposure to the latest industry news, trends, services.
18. SPATEX is 'by the industry, for the industry': SPATEX has ploughed over £1.9 million back into the industry, providing vital

funding for the SPATEX Foundation and the lobbying of important changes affecting the industry.

19. Easy to get to: just 500 yards off the M6 and within two hours commuting time of 75 per cent of the population.
20. Free to attend and open to the trade and public.
21. Gain inspiration: view the industry's finest products to fire the imagination.
22. The industry's biggest networking event: Visitors and exhibitors are invited to attend the SPATEX Networking Event on Wednesday, after the show closes, with free canapés, drinks, and a very useful hat.
23. Extend your contacts: SPATEX offers the potential to meet over a thousand people from the industry in one day.

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24. Exposure to new markets: visitors are drawn from a wide variety of professions and disciplines, e.g. builders, architects, school bursars, holiday parks, hotel owners, specifiers, leisure managers.
25. Support the British Heart Foundation: the Swimming Teachers' Association (STA) is kick-starting its annual charity campaign at SPATEX. A synchronised swimmer and rower will be put through their paces on the Sunbeach Spas stand B32 to raise valuable funds.
26. Great venue: the award-winning, recently refurbished, Coventry Building Society Arena has an onsite Grosvenor Casino and plentiful local accommodation and eateries.
27. Free onsite parking: 2,000 free car spaces
28. Need pointing in the right direction? Visit the SPATEX Help Desk at the entrance to the Exhibition Hall.

**Register now for free**

[www.spatex.co.uk](http://www.spatex.co.uk)

SPATEX 2024 Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> to  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February. The Coventry  
Building Society Arena, Coventry  
CV6 6GE.

For more info: [helen@spatex.co.uk](mailto:helen@spatex.co.uk)

Tel: +44 (0) 1264 358558.

**For more details of the twenty  
ISPE Workshops, including  
eighteen new sessions at  
SPATEX, see pages 8 and 9.**



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# SPATEX

THE POOL, SPA & WELLNESS SHOW

**TUESDAY 6 – THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2024**

COVENTRY BUILDING SOCIETY ARENA • COVENTRY • UK

## PROGRAMME OF ISPE WORKSHOPS

*Organised by the ISPE on behalf of SPATEX Ltd.*

Ref.	Subject Presentations	Tue. 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	Wed. 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	Thur. 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb.
1.	<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE</b> An annual update on legislation and cases over the past 12 months and details of any forthcoming changes. (20 minute presentation) Colin Jenkinson, FISPE - Leisure Safety Training	10.15-10.35		
2. NEW	<b>LET'S HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT TURBIDITY</b> This talk will have a look at what we mean by turbidity, how it is measured, why it is important in pool water and how small changes can make large differences. (30 minute presentation) Colin Day, FISPE - Lovibond Water Testing	11.00-11.30		
3. NEW	<b>IS YOUR FILTER MEDIA FIT FOR PURPOSE?</b> Filter media performance and backwash dynamics. (30 minute presentation) Jimmy Lamb, FISPE - Dryden Aqua	12.00-12.30		
4. NEW	<b>SPECIFYING TILING IN SWIMMING POOLS AND LEISURE CENTRES</b> Enjoy our RIBA Approved CPD and learn how to make informed choices when specifying tiling in swimming pools and leisure areas by considering the impact that tiles, backgrounds, water chemistry and the finished environments will have on the adhesive and grout specification. Learn how to avoid common failures through optimum product specification and guidance on best practice. Feel confident about selecting and specifying the most appropriate tile fixing solutions for use in swimming pools and leisure centres. Shaun Howarth - Ardex UK Ltd. (30 minute presentation)	1.15-1.45		
5. NEW	<b>THE IMPORTANCE OF MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTING</b> Water in spa pools should be free from infectious microbiological agents which can pose a risk to health. Microbiological hazards can be introduced from bathers and other external sources! Poor water management and a lack of clear operating procedures can quickly escalate the risk of users acquiring an infectious disease. Is your water safe? (30 minute presentation) David Ramsden - Complete Pool Controls	2.00-2.30		
6. NEW	<b>CONTRACTOR HEAT PUMP OPTIONS FOR THE INDOOR POOL ENVIRONMENT</b> An essential overview for contractors of the heat pump options available for air and water heating. (30 minute presentation) John Harvey - Recotherm	2.45-3.15		
7. NEW	<b>A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION OF A PUMP STRIPDOWN AND RE-BUILD</b> Chris Carr, FISPE - C.C. Filtration Services and Will Dando, FISPE - Plastica Ltd. (45 minute presentation)	3.30-4.15		
8. NEW	<b>CHEMICAL DOSING – HAVE YOU TRIED TURNING IT ON AND OFF AGAIN?</b> A chemical dosing troubleshooting presentation. Bob Judd, FISPE - Aquatrol Ltd. (20 minute presentation)	4.30-4.50		

Ref.	Subject Presentations	Tue. 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	Wed. 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	Thur. 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb.
9. <a href="#">NEW</a>	<b>WATER TREATMENT OF DISPLAY SPAS AND HOT TUBS</b> What are your responsibilities to your staff and customers? Colin Jenkinson, FISPE - Leisure Safety Training ( <a href="#">30 minute presentation</a> )		<b>10.15- 10.45</b>	
10. <a href="#">NEW</a>	<b>WATERPROOFING SWIMMING POOL STEPS WITH A PVC LINER</b> A professional guide to getting the best finish. Will Dando, FISPE - Plastica Ltd. ( <a href="#">45 minute presentation</a> )		<b>11.00- 11.45</b>	
11. <a href="#">NEW</a>	<b>KEEPING ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN POOLS LOW – A COMPARISON OF ENERGY RECOVERY TECHNOLOGIES</b> The cost of energy remains high for our customers and keeping energy consumption to a minimum is a challenge we should try to meet. In this seminar we compare different energy recovery technologies, considering their effectiveness and suitability for use in swimming pools. We will leave you with an understanding of how you can best support your clients in managing their energy needs, whilst supporting the wider environmental needs of the planet. ( <a href="#">30 minute presentation</a> ) Ian Furmidge - Dantherm Ltd. and Rob Renton - Certikin Int.		<b>12.00- 12.30</b>	
12. <a href="#">NEW</a>	<b>HI RATE SAND FILTER SIZING</b> How to calculate the correct size of a hi rate sand filter in line with current standards. ( <a href="#">30 minute presentation</a> ) Chris Carr, FISPE - C.C. Filtration Services		<b>12.45- 1.15</b>	
13. <a href="#">NEW</a>	<b>DO IT RIGHT, DO IT ONCE!</b> The rights and wrongs of pool plant installations and pipework. John Cheek, FISPE - Hydrospec Ltd. ( <a href="#">45 minute presentation</a> )		<b>1.30- 2.15</b>	
14. <a href="#">NEW</a>	<b>POOLS STANDARDS ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS FOOD STANDARDS</b> A case study in how it comes down to the staff to ensure great standards in any establishment. ( <a href="#">30 minute presentation</a> ) Julian Mills, MISPE - Ultimate Generation		<b>2.30- 3.00</b>	
15. <a href="#">NEW</a>	<b>A GOOD WATER TESTING REGIME – COULD IT SAVE YOU MONEY?</b> Colin Day, FISPE - Lovibond Water Testing ( <a href="#">30 minute presentation</a> )		<b>3.15- 3.45</b>	
16. <a href="#">NEW</a>	<b>FOUR SIMPLE, COST-EFFECTIVE STEPS TO REDUCING YOUR POOL'S CARBON FOOTPRINT</b> This presentation will show how the use of four products can reduce the water and energy consumption of your pool, thereby reducing your carbon footprint. ( <a href="#">30 minute presentation</a> ) Jon Maskell, TnISPE(Cert.) - Waterco		<b>4.00- 4.30</b>	

Ref.	Subject Presentations	Tue. 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	Wed. 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	Thur. 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb.
17. <a href="#">NEW</a>	<b>LEGIONELLA RISK IN SPA POOLS</b> Legionnaires' disease from Spa Pools can kill or lead to life changing ill health. There are simple methods to keep users safe and keep on the right side of the law. ( <a href="#">30 minute presentation</a> ) Matt Morse - The Legionella Control Association			<b>10.15- 10.45</b>
18.	<b>POOL WATER AND ENERGY CONSERVATION</b> How to minimise heat loss and evaporation to save money and wasted resources. ( <a href="#">45 minute presentation</a> ) Will Dando, FISPE - Plastica Ltd.			<b>11.00- 11.45</b>
19. <a href="#">NEW</a>	<b>LANGELIER SATURATION INDEX</b> The importance of maintaining good water balance. Jimmy Lamb, FISPE - Dryden Aqua ( <a href="#">30 minute presentation</a> )			<b>12.00- 12.30</b>
20. <a href="#">NEW</a>	<b>HAVE YOU HAD ALL THE TRAINING FOR THE JOB YOU ARE DOING AND CAN YOU PROVE IT?</b> In this session, Howard will make reference to The Poisons Act, The Offensive Weapons Act and Dangerous Goods' Legislation. ( <a href="#">30 minute presentation</a> ) Howard Gosling, FISPE - Pool and Spa Advice			<b>1.00- 1.30</b>

# ISPE's 43rd Annual General Meeting

The 43<sup>rd</sup> ISPE AGM took place online via Web-Ex on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 9.00 a.m. ISPE President Jimmy Lamb, FISPE, chaired the meeting.

Jimmy welcomed all those in attendance and read the list of apologies.

All paid up full Members and Fellows were sent a copy of the Agenda in the normal way, and were offered a set of accounts.

The first item on the agenda was: To receive and consider the Accounts for the year ended 30th June, 2023, together with the report of the Directors and Auditors thereon.

This was proposed by Chris Carr, seconded by Bob Judd and agreed unanimously.

The second item on the agenda was to elect three members to the Council of Management. Will Dando, John Scott and Malcolm Sharp resigned in accordance with Article 47 and, being eligible, offered themselves for re-election in accordance with Article 48.

In addition, a nomination was received for Glyn Lucas to serve on the Council of Management.

Council decided to increase the number of Council members from fifteen to sixteen, so it was therefore proposed, as a composite motion: To elect Will Dando, John Scott, Malcolm Sharp and Glyn Lucas to the Council of Management.

This was proposed by Ben Studdy seconded by Bob Judd and agreed unanimously.

The third and final item on the agenda was to re-appoint Lanham and Company as Auditors to the Company and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

This was proposed by Chris Carr, seconded by Colin Day and agreed unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, Jimmy thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.11 a.m.

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## The ISPE 2023 Awards and 129<sup>th</sup> Seminar

The 2023 ISPE Awards were held as part of the Institute's 129<sup>th</sup> One-Day Seminar on Construction on 12<sup>th</sup> October in Cobham, Surrey.

ISPE President Jimmy Lamb, FISPE, started the presentations by announcing that two long-serving ISPE members had been made Fellows of the ISPE.

Jimmy said: *"The first person is known to many of you around the industry and has been a member of the Institute for many, many years. He was elected to the ISPE Council in 2018 and has given a number of well-received presentations at ISPE Seminars, and will be part of the ISPE programme at SPATEX 2024. He has a wealth of knowledge and has given much help and advice to many over the years. He was recently elected as Vice-President of the Institute, and I am delighted to award a Fellowship to Bob Judd".*

Jimmy continued: *"The next person to be awarded a Fellowship is a man who is now serving his second term of office on the ISPE Council having joined the Institute in 2009 and served originally from 2013-2018.*

*He has delivered ISPE-Endorsed Pool Plant Operator training since 2013 and has given a number of presentations at both ISPE Seminars*

*and ISPE Workshops at SPATEX. He was instrumental in getting the ISPE CPD scheme rolling in 2017, with John Cheek, and he is now, in addition, helping out on the Workforce Development sub-committee, and brings a wealth of experience to that role. He has assisted us on the ISPE stand at SPATEX and provided help on numerous technical enquiries by email, on the ISPE stand at SPATEX and at seminars. I am delighted to present a Fellowship of the Institute to Colin Jenkinson."*

Jimmy congratulated Bob and Colin as he presented them with their Fellow certificates and silver ISPE lapel badges.



Jimmy Lamb (centre) with Colin Jenkinson (left) and Bob Judd (right)

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Under new Management

Jimmy then handed ISPE Technician certificates to those who passed their ISPE Exams back in March.

The Gartside Cup, for the Student of the Year, is presented to the student who achieved the highest overall marks in the examinations and the winner was Kieran Cornell, TnISPE(Cert.), from Rockingham Pools.

The Peter Horne Cup is awarded either for a Technical Paper, or Seminar presentation on the subject of Chemicals or Water Treatment, or to the student that submits the best Chemicals exam paper. This year it was awarded to Harvey Hume, from Clearwater Marine Group, for an excellent Chemicals examination paper.

The Jim Johnson Filtration Shield is awarded either for a Technical Paper, Seminar presentation, or the best exam paper, on the subject of Filtration, and Jimmy was delighted to present the Jim Johnson Filtration Shield to Kieran Cornell, his second success of the day!



Jimmy (centre) with Harvey Hume (left) and Kieran Cornell (right)

### **Huge Interest at ISPE Construction Seminar**

Just over seventy delegates attended the 129<sup>th</sup> ISPE Seminar and this was the highest attendance at an ISPE Seminar since October 2005.



Ian Betts, FISPE, addresses a packed audience

The theme of the seminar was Swimming Pool Construction and Ian Betts, FISPE, from PoolConsult, introduced the day looking at the initial conversation between a pool builder and the client regarding the detailed requirements, and outlining what the pool company should inform the client of, regarding options, etc.

Jon Herbert, MISPE, from Rockingham Pools, then gave an overview of how to carry out a pool installation using an in-situ welded lining membrane. Alex Kemsley, MISPE, from Compass Pools, then talked about the site requirements and installation of a one-piece pool. Ian then returned to explain the differences between the wet and dry mix for sprayed concrete and looked at the specification for rendering, tanking and the application of tiling.

Later in the day, John Whiteside from Lighthouse Pools provided a construction guide for panel pool systems, and John Cheek, FISPE, from Hydrospec, looked at the commissioning and handover procedure and Operation and Maintenance manuals.

ISPE would like to thank all the speakers for their attendance.

### **Date for Your Diary**

The next ISPE Seminar, our 131<sup>st</sup>, will be on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March.  
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## Product Focus

### Relax Pro 70 - New for 2024!

Plastica is thrilled to introduce its new Relax PRO 70 Calcium Hypochlorite professional-grade swimming pool water treatment, specifically designed for the commercial market. In 2023, Plastica has dedicated extensive efforts to ensure that this product not only meets high-quality standards but is also fully compliant with UK BPR legislation.



RelaxPro70 Calcium Hypochlorite Granules and Easy-Scoop Pellets

Plastica is proud to announce its listing on the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) website under GB Article 95, reinforcing its commitment to providing a reliable and compliant solution for commercial swimming pool maintenance.

If you want any information about this or any other product feel free to contact us.

For more information, please visit [www.plasticapools.net](http://www.plasticapools.net)

## New ISPE Vice-President

Bob Judd, FISPE was recently elected as the Vice-President of the ISPE. Bob will take over as the next ISPE President, when current ISPE President, Jimmy Lamb, completes his term of office in October 2024.

## Back-to-Basics/Revision Seminar

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February in February 2024, in Hatfield, Herts.**

This seminar is free of charge to all registered ISPE students, but open to all for a small charge. It is an ideal refresher session for those students about to sit their ISPE exams (Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024) and looks at the four subjects in question, Filtration, Construction, Heating and Chemicals/Water treatment. The four ISPE Tutors will look at past exam questions and give tips and advice on how to approach the exams.

Contact the ISPE office for more details and to reserve your place ([ross@ispe.co.uk](mailto:ross@ispe.co.uk) or telephone 01603 499959).



# Specifying Tiling in Swimming Pools

By Adam Willmott, from Ardex UK

*The following is a summary of Adam's presentation at the 130<sup>th</sup> ISPE Seminar back in November.*

Apart from aesthetics, it's important to consider a number of factors when selecting tiles for your swimming pool specification.



All glazed floor tiles are classified under a Porcelain Enamel Institute (PEI) rating for the suitability of the location relating to wear.

The Tile Association can provide additional information regarding the testing of tiles as can the tile manufacturer or stockist. However, in the case of wet locations, water absorption, chemical abrasion and slip resistance are major factors to consider when specifying tiling.

There are a number of different tile types you can choose from – each with their own unique make-up and

composition. These must be considered when specifying your pool.

Here we will outline the different tile types and what to consider.

## **Ceramic**

Historically in the UK the majority of standard wall tiles have glazed porous bodies with a water absorption between 10% and 20%, when glazed they are suitable for a wide range of internal applications. However, due to their porosity they are not frost resistant and should only be used in internal conditions. Glazed ceramics are not generally suitable for heavily trafficked areas and should not be used in pools.

## **Fully vitrified porcelain**

These are characterised by their very low water absorbency – they are extremely versatile and hard wearing, however, due to their low water absorbency a highly polymer modified cement-based adhesive would always be the preferred option with these tiles.

## **Vitrified/semi vitrified**

Although the porosity of the tile is not as low as porcelain, we cannot rely on porosity of the materials to enable the bonding so we still need to specify a highly polymer modified adhesive here. You should also check with the supplier that the tiles are suitable for immersed conditions.

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have unique considerations when specifying generally due to their chemical composition, water absorbency, size and thickness and surface texture. Some natural stones, due to their water absorbency may not be an ideal first choice when specifying in wet locations. Also check with the supplier or the Stone Federation that the tiles are suitable for immersed conditions.

### **Agglomerated stone**

Previously referred to as conglomerate stone – tend to look like polished granite or terrazzo. The tiles are made by mixing marble or granite chips with polyester or epoxy resin. These are important to identify as sometimes the resin can be attacked by cement and/or absorb moisture which may cause the tile to expand – they are not suitable for immersed conditions.



### **Mosaics**

When specifying mosaics in wet areas, consideration should be given to the tile back mesh. This should be fixed with a water-resistant adhesive, and must not occupy more than 25% of the tesserae area. Also, the glue holding the paper on the paper faced mosaics must remove easily from the face of the mosaics.

The tile body itself should have a low water absorption of 3% or preferably less.

Mosaics are fixed in a thin bed, with glass mosaics and translucent tiles a white high performance or reaction resin adhesive would be recommended.

### **Slip Resistance**

Floor finishes in wet, barefoot areas must be slip resistant when wet and have a non-abrasive surface.

Tile manufacturers should provide you with advice on suitability. Contractors should also consider effective cleaning regimes to maintain the non-slip nature of tiles.

### **Specifying Tile Adhesives**

The choice of tile adhesive specified plays a crucial role in the success or failure of a project.

There are three main types of ceramic tiling adhesives: dispersion (ready-mixed), cement-based and reaction resin adhesives.

Dispersion or ready-mixed adhesives need to dry via evaporation to develop adhesion and are not suitable for full immersion areas.

Cement-based adhesives are commonly used in the contract market for tiling. These are bagged adhesives and are mixed with water, which then sets and hardens through a chemical reaction.

Cement-based adhesives are recommended for full immersion areas and changing rooms.

Reaction resin adhesives, commonly referred to as epoxy (or Polyurethane) are generally 2 component systems which react together when mixed to gain adhesion. These are used in specialist areas, such as tiling fibreglass pool shells.

This very basic principle is important: considerations such as the body of the tile type, its level of water absorption, the tile size/weight, the width of the grout joint coupled with the porosity of the background or the end tiling situation will effect your choice when specifying adhesives.

### **Specifying Tile Grouts**

There are two types of tile grout – cementitious grouts and reaction resin (or epoxy) grouts.

Both types of grouts are specified, however the most commonly

used are cement based. Reaction resin grouts are usually epoxide based and used in specialist areas such as swimming pool surrounds and specialist industrial locations.

Cement-based grouts should be specified for where the pool water is hard and will be maintained and balanced at a calcium level over 250mg/litre. They are suitable for normal cleaning regimes.

In some circumstances, it's necessary to specify a reaction resin grout (normally an epoxy). This often depends on the mains water supply.

For example, in soft water areas where the calcium content is below 250mg/litre, or if it is not possible to maintain the pool water in a condition which will not be aggressive to cement-based adhesives and grouts, a reaction resin grout should be specified.

Reaction resin grouts are impervious and resistant to acid and high pressures, therefore easier to clean and maintain. In areas of increased abrasion, for example where water is lapping at the edges of a pool, or even in multiple body jet showers, then it is advisable to opt for a reaction resin grout.

#### **Pool chemicals and water balance**

Sulphate containing materials can effect cement-based materials, leading to cracking, expansion and loss of strength and bond. In addition, aggressive pool water conditions such as soft or acidic water can lead to cement based materials eroding. Both these factors can ultimately lead to failure.

One cannot rely on the tiling and grout to protect the background and adhesive bed from the aggressive effects of the pool water.

Soft water is "hungry" and will dissolve calcium salts out of cement, hard water is "full" of calcium salts and will deposit them in the form of scale.

Therefore, it's important to ensure that the pool water is correctly balanced.

The ideal PH range for a pool is 7.2 to 7.8 under balanced water conditions.



**To arrange a 'Specifying Tiles in Swimming Pools' CPD with ARDEX, contact us at [info@ardex.co.uk](mailto:info@ardex.co.uk)**

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## Introducing New ISPE Council Member, Glyn Lucas, MISPE

I joined the industry in August 1982 at the age of 18, purely by chance, after training for the previous 2 years as an electrically biased tool maker for the packaging industry. Certikin were based 'over the road' and offered new challenges.



One of my early roles at Certikin was to complete warranty works, this entailed changing pumps, repairing filters, diving boards, anything that has failed under warranty, working with my hands, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

In 1985, Certikin started to import spas from America (NEMCO). The spa shells needed to be plumbed and the portable spas needed to be tested. Plumbing and testing the spa shells became a big part of my working week. Around this time, the London Docklands redevelopments started and Certikin had a considerable number of plant installations, this alongside the spa plumbing filled my working week.

In 1987 I decided to go self-employed, the commercial industry seemed to be in a boom time and plantroom building work was readily available. Over the next 5-6 years I plumbed spas and built plantrooms for Certikin, built and installed teak hot tubs for Hot Tubs Limited (the original UK wooden hot tub company) and installed plantrooms for Guncastr at many David Lloyd clubs, I also started

to build a local client base of domestic pools.

With the closure of the commercial department at Certikin in 1992, Don Wyatt formed DG Pool & Leisure. Don had been the head of the commercial department and I had always had a great deal of respect for him. Don asked me to work for him as a sub-contractor, and over the next 3-4 years much of my work was with Don.

In 1996, and as Don was looking to wind down, I became a partner in the business, and in 2000, as Don retired, I became Managing Director. It was in 2000 that I joined the ISPE.

DG Pool & Leisure now has 20 staff and have over 400 active sites across the UK, with a good sales & management team in place, my role at DG is primarily technically biased, designing filtration systems, heating and ventilation systems along with both dosing & UV systems. I have also continued to be very active in the spa market, although normally for commercial projects, and in particular, sectional/tiled spas.

Outside of work I'm a cricket fan and am heavily involved in my local club, and still play the odd game. I'm also a keen motorcyclist & golfer.

I also enjoy watching football and am a keen West Ham fan, I try to attend as many games as possible along with my 3 children who have no choice but to also follow West Ham!

As I am now in my fifth decade within the Pool Industry, and with a good structure to DG, the time seems right to support the Institute, particularly as those who I have held in high esteem within the industry have all supported the ISPE over many years.



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## Company News

### **Certikin appointed official distributor of AFM® Activated Filter Media**

Dryden Aqua has appointed Certikin, the UK's leading supplier of pool and spa products, as a new official UK distributor for its highly popular Activated Filter Media (AFM®), from January 2024.



Producing crystal clear water, AFM® is the best performing filter media on the market with a certified 1-micron filtration rate which will remove about 50% more organic substances from the water than sand and other glass filter media. Whilst manufactured from recycled glass, AFM® is different to other glass media on the market. During the production process the raw AFM® goes through a three-step chemical and thermal activation process. This activation is the reason for its 100% bio resistance, preventing bacterial growth in the filter bed as well as its amazing filtration performance. The self-sterilising surface prevents channelling and the biological conversion from urea to ammonia in the filter bed which is responsible for the toxic chlorine smells

(trichloramines). With AFM® there is a lower consumption of chlorine and the risk of infections by bacteria and parasites such as Legionella, Pseudomonas and Cryptosporidium is reduced to an absolute minimum.

Dryden Aqua proudly claim: "Our production is likely the most sophisticated and sustainable glass processing factory in the world. We ensure that our product has no sharp edges that can injure the operator or damage the filter. The material filters 20 times smaller particles than sand or any competitive product, as proven by the independent laboratory IFTS in France."

AFM® is a direct replacement for sand, doubling the performance of sand filters without the need for additional investments in infrastructure. It is suitable for all types of pools including natural and saltwater pools.

"We are delighted to be appointed as an official UK distributor by Dryden Aqua and to add this high-performance filter media to our already extensive portfolio," says Certikin's Commercial & International Director, Steve Nelson, "It is an outstanding product, and we are sure that our customers will very quickly recognise the many benefits of AFM®."

"Dryden Aqua are very excited to have Certikin on board and they will add another level of professionalism in promoting the benefits of AFM in the UK pool market" says Jimmy Lamb of Dryden Aqua.

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# THE BEST FILTRATION MEDIA ON THE MARKET NOW AVAILABLE FROM CERTIKIN

Producing crystal clear water, Activated Filter Media (AFM®) is the best performing filter media on the market with a certified 1-micron filtration rate which will remove about 50% more organic substances from the water than sand and other glass filter media.

Whilst manufactured from recycled glass, AFM® is different to other glass media on the market. During the production process the raw AFM® goes through a three-step chemical and thermal activation process. This activation is the reason for its 100% bio resistance, preventing bacterial growth in the filter bed as well as its amazing filtration performance.

AFM® is a direct replacement for sand, doubling the performance of sand filters without the need for additional investments in infrastructure. It is suitable for all types of pools including natural & saltwater pools, and is available from Certikin who are now an official distributor.

Key benefits of AFM®:

- Crystal clear water
- Lower chlorine consumption
- No chlorine smell and up to 50% less THMs
- Risk of infection by bacteria and parasites such as Legionella, Pseudomonas and Cryptosporidium is reduced to an absolute minimum
- Same performance for many years with AFM® outlasting all other filter media





# Cloudy Water

By Jimmy Lamb, FISPE

The clarity of pool water is measured by NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units). The higher the figure, the more turbid (cloudy) the water. Industry standards recommend NTU be no higher than 0.5 NTU. This is the same standard for drinking water. In my experience, it's rare for commercial pool operators to monitor NTU as part of their NOP (Normal Operating Procedure), but it's really important to maintain good clarity for safety reasons. There is a risk of drowning if bathers become submerged and unsighted by lifeguards.

Cloudy water can be caused by a number of different reasons. A common cause of high NTU is a lack of disinfection and/or out of balance pH. Not only does a high pH reduce chlorine efficacy, it also encourages minerals, such as calcium to precipitate out of solution resulting in diminished clarity.

Bather overload and inadequate chlorine dosing to meet with demand will also lead to a lack of disinfection of the water.

Outdoor pools are in particular prone to algae bloom, especially following torrential rain as nutrients introduced from the rain and run off will destroy the free chlorine.

Pools can sometimes turn cloudy overnight for what appears to be some unknown reason. This can be due to a bacterial floc release from a biofilm that has developed over time somewhere within the system. This bacterial release is typically coming from the 'mud balling' of the filter media. This enters the pool and destroys the free chlorine resulting in turbid and unsafe water.

Overdosing of a flocculant, such as PAC, can also be a cause of cloudy conditions as it makes its way through

the media or, if the Total Alkalinity is deficient (under 60mg/l) or, pH is out of balance, then the floc will not form and could pass through the filter media into the pool, resulting in cloudy conditions. The floc will sometimes fall out onto the pool floor and when bathers enter the water, they 'kick up' the settled floc from the floor causing a dust like haziness.

Deficient or old filter media can also contribute to cloudy water as colloids and small particulate matter are no longer captured and simply passes through the filter media bed and back into the pool.

I was recently involved in a large commercial pool fitted with an anti-drowning camera detection system. This sophisticated system monitors bather movement in the water, the depth of the bather and the length of time the bather is submerged. It triggers an alert if certain parameters are not met. In this particular installation, the system kept triggering a false alarm due to the poor water clarity. The solution in this case was to replace the filter media with new.

So, what's the takeaway? In order to maintain good water clarity, it starts with good filtration and hydraulics (flow/circulation). For too many years, attention to chemistry has been the wrong solution and not addressing the root cause. If a pool has to be shock dosed with chlorine then it's already too late since the problem has occurred. Address the root cause with good maintenance of the filtration and hydraulics. Ensure adequate dosing for chlorine and pH control and use the pool to how it has been designed, for example, not doubling the bather load.

It's the old adage, prevention is better than cure!

## Project Focus

### Commercial Plant Refurbishment & Energy Saving By Glyn Lucas, MISPE – DG Pool & Leisure

DG Pool & Leisure were first introduced to a private school near Wokingham back in 2020. The school wanted a comprehensive service contract to meet all current industry standards and a one-stop shop commercial service company.

After a few years of routine servicing it became apparent that much of the pool plant equipment had become rather tired, in particular the sand filters which had issues with the neck rings, meaning they would never reseal if a media change was carried out.

The client was advised that both pumps and filters had given 25 years' good service (as indeed had the Calorex Delta & Ocea pool cover) and that often at this age pool plant is due replacement. Some other issues had also been highlighted during servicing and balance tank cleans, such as restrictions within the balance tank and in particular the non-return valves. It had been noted from day one that the filtration had no flow meter fitted.

Understanding the pool plant would soon need a refit, the client requested a quotation for a number of options, with a particular onus on both energy saving and reducing the School's carbon footprint.

After a full survey, and with the use of our ultrasonic portable flow meter the system was noted as having a flow rate of 65m<sup>3</sup>/hr in normal operation. The flow rate was greatly reduced by the fact that the air handling unit was installed on a 3 valve by-pass arrangement, with the

by-pass fully open, the flow increased to 90m<sup>3</sup>/hr, however, the reading was unstable due to the high suction velocity indicating cavitation of the pumps.



To summarise this, 25m<sup>3</sup>/hr of available filtration water was lost due to the increase in head/pressure to put 10m<sup>3</sup>/hr through the AHU. In turn, the filtration load was 8.2kW (two 50% duty pumps).

To reduce filtration suction velocity the balance tank non-return valves were replaced for 'full flow' NRV's. The suction manifold was also reconfigured and a much larger stainless steel strainer included, along with new suction valves. This enabled an increased amount of suction water right the way to the front of the pumps.

Another major concern of mine was that the original filters did not have adequate water to backwash with. Whilst there are various figures and velocities advised within the industry, it is my belief and as part of my design I look to create a backwash velocity of 40m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>2</sup>/hr. At this velocity, lateral type filters



(without air scouring) will backwash fully where the filter bed is fluidised.

Going back to the filtration system, and in particular heating, some AHU's & heat exchangers (plate type in particular) can impact the filter pump's performance massively, this is why it is prudent to consider a heating boost pump. For example, on this particular project to achieve the AHU flow only required a 0.2kW booster pump, the original system was using nearly 2kW of its 8.2kW overall load to push water through the heating loop.



Finally with regard to filter pumps, there are some astonishing figures being achieved from current pumps, in particular pumps with IE5 motors. IE5 motors are the most efficient in the world and are slowly being introduced into our market.

On this project we were achieving 78m<sup>3</sup>/hr from a single 4kW motor (at 100%), based on the pipework restriction underground and the pool inlets size, a design flow of 72m<sup>3</sup>/hr was set, this allowed the integral variable speed drives to be set at 90%, with the 0.2kW heating booster pump the total filtration load was just 3.8kW.

At a typical energy cost of £0.40kW/h, the client had an immediate saving of £15,417 per

annum, however, being a school with limited usage, during holidays the VSD's can be turned down further adding additional savings.



“As a member of the ISPE for over twenty years (and now a member of the ISPE Council) my advice to those who carry out the design of pool plant refurbishment would be to consider the following:

- Check the suction pipe sizing, including any balance tank restriction
- Check the sump(s) pipe sizing (not just the size of the grille)
- Keep suction pipework to below 1.5m/second
- Fit a good quality flow meter
- Choose filters that can be adequately backwashed
- Choose good quality media
- Consider a heating boost pump to reduce the overall head/back pressure

**For more details see:  
[www.dgpools.co.uk](http://www.dgpools.co.uk)**

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## Company News

### Polypool appoints Certikin as their official trade distributor

Certikin are delighted to have been appointed as the official trade distributor of the UK's leading panel pool system, Polypool.



Suitable for all types of projects, whether that be indoor or outdoor, inground or partially above ground, the Polypool system offers both an easy and quick solution from both a manufacturing and installation point of view. Even the fittings can be pre-installed if required, meaning all the installer has to do when the Polypool panels arrive on site, is install the system and connect the pipework. This results in an extremely quick construction time. As an example, for a 10m x 5m pool the unique interlocking system can be used to create the pool structure within just half a day. On a typical outdoor pool build, this means customers could be enjoying their swimming pool within just two to three weeks from arrival and clearing of the site.

"As the UK's leading supplier, we are constantly looking to add to our portfolio, whether that be new and innovative products or ones that are already well established such as Polypool", says Certikin's UK Business Director, Bruce Coppuck.

"Over the past 20 years, the team at Polypool have developed the product to become the leading panel pool system in the UK and we are now delighted to be appointed as their exclusive distributor to the trade."

"Despite being well established and with a number of awards to our name we are keen to develop Polypool further, and there is no better distributor to do this with than the UK's number one, Certikin." added James Hounslow, Director of Polypool. "With both companies being leaders in their field, there is a natural synergy, and we are really looking forward to working with the team at Certikin to further promote the benefits of our panel pool system."

A key selling point of insulated panel pool systems is their heat retention capabilities, and this is something for which Polypool is unrivalled. A Polypool is eight times more efficient at keeping in heat than your average double-glazed window, meaning the pool will heat up much faster and retain the heat for longer. With swimming pools regulated under Part L of the Building Regulations, all indoor pools must meet the strict U-value of 0.25W/m<sup>2</sup>/K. Polypool not only meets this government guideline but exceeds it with an extremely low U-value of just 0.18W/m<sup>2</sup>/K, a figure which is unmatched by any of its competitors.

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## ISPE General Secretary Announces Retirement

After working for the Institute for over thirty four years, ISPE General Secretary, Ross Alcock, has announced his impending retirement.

It is anticipated that Ross will finally hang up his 'ISPE boots' in June/July 2024, by which time he will have served thirty five years, but a firm date is yet to be agreed as the search now begins for his replacement.

Ross has offered to assist the Institute and the ISPE Council for a period of time beyond his 'final' date, on a part-time basis, to ensure the service to Institute members is not interrupted and to assist in the smooth handover to new staff.

Having watched over the ISPE for so many years, Ross has seen many changes in and around the industry but feels it is now time to hand the reins of the day-to-day management of the Institute's business to somebody new as the Institute heads towards its fiftieth anniversary.

"The important thing for the Institute is to ensure that the handover process is as seamless as possible, and I want to reassure all ISPE members and students that I will do whatever I can to assist in this," Ross said.

The search is now on to find a replacement for Ross and situation vacant adverts are being widely circulated (see the Situations Vacant section of the ISPE website). If you would like more details of what is involved please contact the ISPE office by emailing [ross@ispe.co.uk](mailto:ross@ispe.co.uk) or telephone 01603 499959.

## Situations Vacant

In addition to the ISPE General Secretary vacancy mentioned above, there are a number of exciting vacancies with the pool trade advertised on the ISPE website. See [www.ispe.co.uk](http://www.ispe.co.uk) for more details of all the positions on offer, or contact the ISPE office on 01603 499959.

## New Members and Students

As always, we extend a very warm welcome to all those who have joined or re-joined the ISPE since the last ISPE Magazine in October. A full list will appear in the next issue.

## Pen Pal

We are most grateful to ISPE Past President, John Cheek, FISPE, of Hydrospec Ltd., for sponsoring a large supply of new ISPE pens, which we took delivery of recently. Many thanks John.



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## Product News

### **Plastipack announces first Carbon Negative GeoBubble™ pool covers**

After undertaking an independently verified Life Cycle Analysis (LCA), Plastipack Ltd, the manufacturer of energy and resource saving products, can proudly announce the first of our Carbon Negative products – **EnergyGuard™ Selective Transmission**, and the standard **Light Blue GeoBubble™** material.

#### **Reducing the financial & environmental cost**

Alongside efforts made within the production and distribution processes to reduce carbon emissions, GeoBubble™ products can also work to save carbon emissions when in use on a pool.

EnergyGuard™ Selective Transmission's unique benefits offer energy and resource savings that have a direct impact in reducing both the cost and environmental impact of running your pool.

Heat pump energy consumption tests on our bespoke testing facility highlight that EnergyGuard™ Selective Transmission can reduce energy consumption by 87% when compared to an uncovered pool. These energy savings represent both a financial and environmental benefit - within its warrantied 8-year lifespan an average EnergyGuard™ Selective Transmission cover will save 1,091kg CO<sub>2</sub>e in energy-related carbon emissions. The cover's ability to inhibit algae growth and act as a physical barrier to dirt and debris contamination can reduce the chemical consumption of a pool by up to 60%.

Saving 34kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per m<sup>2</sup> over the lifespan of the product, EnergyGuard™ Selective Transmission is a proven carbon negative material.

The same report also showed that the standard 400 micron Light Blue GeoBubble™ material saved 7kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per m<sup>2</sup> over its shorter 4 year warrantied lifespan, proving that using even a standard GeoBubble™ cover has a positive environmental impact.

#### **What is a Life Cycle Analysis?**

A Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a holistic review of the environmental impact of a product throughout its whole life. The environmental impact of the product is expressed in terms of carbon emissions (kgCO<sub>2</sub>e) per functional unit.

An LCA will take into consideration all carbon emissions resulting from the materials and energy consumed within a product's life, starting from the sourcing and manufacturing stage, through its distribution and use and finally the end-of-life. It will also consider any potential for reduction in emissions or carbon savings resulting from the efficiencies brought about by use of the product.

Carbon negative products are those that bring about a net saving in carbon emissions over the course of their lifetime.

**Find out more at**  
[www.geobubblepoolcovers.com](http://www.geobubblepoolcovers.com)

#### **Have you got any product or company news?**

We are always pleased to include interesting company or product news, and/or technical items, within the ISPE Magazine.

Contact [ross@ispe.co.uk](mailto:ross@ispe.co.uk) if you have something in mind.



# Introducing the first Carbon Negative pool covers from GeoBubble™

After undertaking an independently verified research, Plastipack Ltd, the manufacturer of GeoBubble™ technology pool cover material, can proudly announce the first of our Carbon

Negative products –

**EnergyGuard™ Selective Transmission**,  
and the standard **Light Blue GeoBubble™**  
material.



**SAVES:**

34kgCO<sub>2</sub>e per m<sup>2</sup>  
over the lifespan of the cover

**GeoBubble™ Light Blue**

**SAVES:**

7kgCO<sub>2</sub>e per m<sup>2</sup>  
over the lifespan of the cover

Find out more at  
[www.geobubblepoolcovers.com](http://www.geobubblepoolcovers.com)



☎ 01424 851659

✉ [info@geobubblepoolcovers.com](mailto:info@geobubblepoolcovers.com)

# SPATEX

THE POOL, SPA & WELLNESS SHOW

TUESDAY 6 - THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2024

*All sectors of the water leisure industry from pools, spas, saunas, hydrotherapy, steam rooms and play equipment, in the domestic and commercial areas, are represented at SPATEX.*

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