

October 1, 2008

ADVISORY NOTICE

Dear Pool Operator,

This document is for informational purposes only. In December 2007, President Bush signed into law the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. The law mandates that Public swimming pools and spas be equipped with anti-entrapment main drain covers that comply with ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 performance standard. In addition to the anti-entrapment main drain covers, any swimming pool or spa which is constructed with a single main drain must be equipped with a device or system designed to prevent entrapment such as one of the following:

1. Safety vacuum release system
2. Suction limiting vent system
3. Gravity drainage system
4. Automatic pump shut-off system
5. Other systems determined by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to be equally or more effective than one of the above systems.

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act requires that such modifications be in effect by December 19, 2008. The consumer Product Safety Commission is the primary enforcement agency for the Act. The Department of Environmental Health will not enforce the standards locally unless the California state law is amended.

However, be advised that any renovations, remodeling, equipment changes, etc.; including splitting drains or adding devices to a Public Swimming Pool or Spa, must be approved by the Department of Environmental Health – submittal of plans may be required for this work. To contact us, please call (951) 358-5172 and ask to speak to someone from our Plan Check Program. For context of the new federal code, go to www.nspf.org or www.cpsc.gov.

Sincerely,
Steve Van Stockum
Deputy Director