



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE • COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN NO. 09-01

DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION

VIRGINIA GRAEME BAKER ACT

The Virginia Graeme Baker Act went into effect December 19, 2008. The Act is a federal law that requires all public swimming pools and spas to be equipped with anti-entrapment covers that comply with ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 performance standard on all suction outlets. In addition, the law requires that all suction outlets be properly split or be equipped with an approved device to prevent entrapment.

The Virginia Graeme Baker Act is a federal law that lists the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) as the enforcement authority. Riverside County Department of Environmental Health is not the enforcing agency and will not enforce the standards locally unless the California State law is amended. However, failure to comply with the Virginia Graeme Baker Act is a violation of federal law and is subject to penalties set by the CPSC.

Be advised that under California State law, *ANY* renovations to a public/ semi-public pool or spa including: remodeling, equipment changes, splitting main drains, changing out drain covers, adding devices; etc..., must be approved by this Department.

Commercial pool contractors or owners that perform pool modifications will be required to obtain approvals before performing any work. If work is completed such as splitting main drains, without proper approvals, the pool will be required to be emptied and the drains chiseled out to expose the proper split and "T" configuration. Any other type of pool modifications completed without plan check approvals may require similar action.

If you have any further questions, please contact the local Riverside County Environmental Health office and ask to speak with a plan checker.

OFFICES IN: RIVERSIDE, BLYTHE, CORONA, HEMET, INDIO, MURRIETA AND PALM SPRINGS
For more information call (888) 722-4234

Department Web Site – www.rivcoeh.org



PLAN SUBMITTAL

- 1) Submit three (3) sets of detailed plans and specifications, complete a swimming pool construction plan application form and pay the required plan check fees. *Plan check fees* are currently *\$400 per enclosure* (Enclosure = maximum of 2 bodies of water. Additional \$400 fee for each additional pool/spa combination). Pools/ spas in separate areas will each be charged a *\$400 plan check fee*. This fee covers 2 field inspections. Any additional inspections will be charged the hourly rate (currently \$145/ hr). Additional fees will be required for additional work.
- 2) The plans must provide sufficient information to demonstrate compliance. Plans must include pool and spa dimensions (Area, volume, etc...), location of suction outlets, pipe sizes, sump elevations and specifications of drain covers and equipment.
- 3) In addition to plan submittal and approval with this Department, it is the responsibility of the owner/ contractor to contact the local Building and Safety Department for additional requirements.

Splitting Main Drains and Drain Cover Installation

- 1) All submerged suction outlets, including main drains, jet booster lines and equalizers must have approved anti-entrapment suction covers that comply with ANSI/ASME A112.19.8-2007 installed. The flow rating of each cover shall be equal to or greater than the flow rating of the pump it is connected to (i.e. If the pump is rated at 80 gpm, EACH cover must be rated at 80 gpm or greater, regardless of whether the drains are split or not).
- 2) All suction outlets must be split so that they are at least 3 ft. apart on center. The suction outlets must be plumbed with a “T” in the center that is hydraulically balanced. In spas where floor space is limited, the suction outlets may be located less than 3 feet apart as long as they are located on different design planes and are offset so that a body cannot cover both suction outlet covers (i.e. one drain on the floor and one on the wall, or two different walls).



- 3) All suction outlets in a spa are required to be relocated down into the floor or leg well so that the bottom edge of the cover is within 2 inches of the spa floor (e.g. main drains and jet suction lines).
- 4) Pools and spas that have only one skimmer are required to have the equalizer line split. Existing pools that have the main drain(s) plumbed through the skimmer will not be required to split the equalizer line. In this case, the split main drains function as the equalizer. Equalizer lines are not required to be located on the pool floor or within 2” of the pool floor.
- 5) An approved sump must be installed on all main drains, jet booster suction lines and equalizers. The sump can be either pre-manufactured or field built. Field built sumps must comply with the manufacturer’s specifications. If no requirements are set by the manufacturer, a minimum distance of 1 ½ times the pipe diameter must be provided between the drain cover and the pipe. (Exception: Some drain covers do not require the installation of sumps. Refer to the manufacturer specifications for requirements)
- 6) The installation of an emergency shut off switch is also required for all spas at the time that any suction line is split. The emergency shut off switch must be readily accessible within the pool enclosure and must be visible from the spa. The switch shall turn off all filtration, jet and blower pumps.

SAFETY VACUUM RELEASE SYSTEM (SVRS)

- 1) Must meet standard ASME/ANSI A112.19.17 or ASTM F2387.
- 2) An approved SVRS must be installed on EACH pump that draws from a suction outlet, including main drains and a spa jet booster pump(s).
- 3) The system must be installed, maintained and operated as per manufacturer’s guidelines. This Department will not inspect the system to determine whether it is functioning properly, has been calibrated, is being properly maintained or will be periodically tested and maintained. This will be the responsibility of the owner or operator.