Positively POOLS

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Main Drain Compliance

Re: Virginia Graham Baker Act

Pools with 2 Main Drains

1. Update/install the new approved Main Drain Covers with 2007 certifications.
2. No other action is required

Pools with 1 Main Drain

1. Update/Install the new approved Main Drain Covers with 2007 certifications.
2. *AND* must perform one of the following options
   A. Have a 2nd main drain installed with the new grates
   B. Install an Electronic Safety Vacuum Release System to each pump
   C. Install a Vent Line
   D. Install an Unblockable Drain (Channel Drain)
   E. Gravity Drainage System
   F. Disable the Drain

Support materials listed on our website and other industry resources, support the above information. The VGB compliance law must be completed before the pools can open for the 2009 swim season. Baby pools, splash pads and any item with a filtration system and separate permit for use must comply. Supplies and lead time for completion are limited. If extended lead times and short supplies push the compliance project past the date of Pool Opening, then proof of a current contract with a licensed pool professional showing that the job is scheduled to be complete will meet short term compliance.

4002 Highway 78 West • Suite 530-292 • Snellville, GA 30039
Office 770 972 3111 • Fax 770 972 3512 • positivelypools.com

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who will be enforcing the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act?
A:CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) is the lead when it comes to implementation and enforcement responsibility.

Q: Will CPSC be actively looking to penalize pool operators who don't comply?
A: The law reinforces CPSC's civil and criminal penalty authority and while the intention is not to penalize an individual pool owner or operator, the agency does have the ability to step in and shut down pools or spas found to not be in compliance.

Q: Will there be any changes from CPSC next year?
A: No additional interpretations are expected.

Q: Is the VGB Pool and Safety Act applicable to waterpark rides that discharge riders immediately upon completion of the ride?
A: Waterpark pools have some unique designs, and No.1 is the large size of the drains/grates.To determine whether your waterpark pools are compliant, contact CPSC.

Q: Are skimmer balance lines in commercial pools covered in the VGB pool and Spa Safety Act?
A: Yes, Conceptually, skimmer equalizer lines are submerged drains and should be either covered or plugged and taken off-line

Q: Does a fully submerged skimmer count as a second drain?
A: There is currently no definitive technical data to support the position that fully submerged skimmers act as a second drain. Operators with this configuration should consult a qualified expert.

Q: Are there approved covers for rectangular grates?
A: Yes. To qualify as compliant all drain covers must meet the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 standard regardless of size or configuration. Currently there are approved round covers, 9 x 9 and 12 x 12- inch rectangular grates on the market. Large and unblockable drain covers are expected to be introduced into the marketplace beginning in November.

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Q: Can operators preorder approved drain covers?
A: Yes. Currently there are approved 8-inch round drain covers on the market and they can be ordered at will. More options should be available soon and operators should do what they can to place an order. Even if the product is on backorder the purchase documentation still represents a good-faith effort to comply.

Q: What should I do if there is no ASME/ANSI cover available for the drain on my pool? (For example a pool with a single L-shaped drain that is half on the pool bottom and half on the wall.)
A: Cases like this would require a field- compliant, field- fabricated cover which will not be available. Although not federally mandated to do so, in unusual cases like this, the ideal option would be to close that drain and build a new dual main drain on the floor of the pool. For most operators that will be something to aim for in the future, but at present you should install one of the secondary anti-entrapment systems.

Q: Are available SVRS'(Safety Vacuum Release Systems) in compliance with all state statues?
A: Given the new federal requirements, if you have a single main drain and want to install a SVRS as your choice of a second backup system, you should ensure that the model you choose has been independently tested and meets the applicable ASME/ANSI or ASTM standards.

Q: If my pool has one main drain but four skimmers does it need an SVRS?
A: The CPSC does not currently have any technical evidence to support claims that this type of system would be a multiple main drain system, but you should contact a certified professional.

Q: My spa has three or four covers, but in a small foot well. What do I need to do to comply?
A: The drain cover requirement applies for these types of spas, but operators should install a second anti-entrapment system if the drains are less than 36 inches apart.

Q: If I have a gravity drain system, am I required to change the drain Cover?
A: Yes, but that kind of pool automatically falls into the category of being a second anti-entrapment system, so the cover replacement requirement is all you will have to do if you are operating a single main drain or multiple main drain pool.

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Q: We have a pool with one 18 x 18- inch drain grate, what do we need to do to be compliant?
A: Install a new, approved 18 x 18- inch cover that should be on the market in the next 30 to 45 days. If it's a single drain pool then you also have to add an SVRS or other secondary option as well.

Q: My indoor pool has two main drains about 8-inches apart, do I still need to install new covers?
A: Yes and with the drains 8-inches apart, you will need a second anti-entrapment system, as well.

Q: Who qualifies as a "trained or certified professional"?
A: To determine who is qualified in your area, CPSC recommends contacting state and local officials. Experts should be formally licensed or certified as a business and carry some level of insurance or similar protection

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