

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



Steve Levy
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

HUMAYUN J. CHAUDHRY, DO., MS
COMMISSIONER

March 23, 2009

Dear Swimming Pool Operator:

For your information, the Federal Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Pool and Spa Safety Act was signed December 19, 2007, with an effective date of December 19, 2008, and establishes mandatory Federal requirements for suction entrapment avoidance in public swimming pools and spas. The Pool and Spa Safety Act requires:

- Install drain covers that meet the ANSI/ASME A112.19.8–2007 standard on EVERY drain/grate. A list of cover manufacturers can be found at www.cpsc.gov/whatsnew.html#pool
- Install an automatic shut-off system, gravity drainage system, Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS), suction-limiting vent system or disable the drain, if the pool operates off of a SINGLE main drain. Pools and spas with unblockable drains are exempt from this requirement. A list of SVRS manufacturers can be found at www.cpsc.gov/whatsnew.html#pool.
- Ensure that dual or multiple main drains are at least 3 feet apart.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is responsible for implementation and enforcement of this law. Individual states do not have enforcement responsibility.

Enclosed is a one-page “Guide to Compliance” poster that was prepared by the CPSC. The poster was designed to inform public pool and spa owners of the requirements of the new law. Although the poster includes a recommendation to disable main drains or build pools without main drains, this is not an option in New York State because main drains are required by Subpart 6-1 of the State Sanitary Code (SSC). **In addition, Subpart 6-1 of the SSC requires all proposed modifications to a regulated swimming pool be reviewed and approved by the local health department before the changes are made.** Also enclosed is a one page Application for - VGB Required Upgrades. This application can be used for installing main drain covers, suction line covers and safety vacuum release systems. All other modifications require a licensed professional engineer.

Very truly yours,

Christopher J. Lubicich, P.E.
Associate Public Health Engineer



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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