



**NASSAU COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**
106 CHARLES LINDBERGH BLVD.
UNIONDALE, N.Y. 11553

January 7, 2009

Re: New Federal Law
Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act

Dear Swimming Pool Owners and Operators:

Please be informed, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act was signed on 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 Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is the federal agency responsible for the implementation and enforcement of this new law, however, any modifications to your pool will require approval from the Nassau County Health Department to ensure compliance with Subpart 6-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code.

The Pool and Spa Safety Act requires:

- 1) Safety drain covers. Each swimming pool or spa drain cover manufactured, distributed, or entered into commerce in the United States shall conform to the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 performance standard.
- 2) Public pool drain covers. Each new and existing public pool and spa shall be equipped with drain covers conforming to the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 performance standard.
- 3) Devices or Systems Designed to Prevent Entrapment. Each new and existing pool and spa with a single main drain, other than an unblockable drain, or a double main drain separated by less than 3 feet apart, shall be equipped with one of the following devices or systems designed to prevent suction entrapment:
 - Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS)
 - Suction-Limiting Vent System
 - Gravity Drainage System
 - Automatic Pump Shut-Off System

Please be advised, owners and operators with questions concerning compliance with the Federal requirements should contact the CPSC at (301)504-7908, info@cpsc.gov or go to <http://www.cpsc.gov/whatsnew.html#pool>.

Please be advised, an attempt to comply with the new Federal Law does not automatically constitute continued compliance of your facility with Subpart 6-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code and are reminded that any modifications to your pool must be submitted to the Department for review and approval. The following instructions are provided to assist and guide you:

A. Pools with two main drains separated by at least three feet or with one unblockable drain*: These pools are required to replace the main drain covers and do not have to install a device or system designed to prevent entrapment. For these pools the following information is to be submitted to the Nassau County Department of Health:

1. Name and address of the facility along with contact information.
2. Name of the manufacturer and model number of the replacement cover, including the open free area of the grate and the size of the openings. Provide a copy of the manufacturers specifications indicating compliance with ASME/ANSI A 112.19.8-2007. The specification should also include the open free area of the grate and size of the openings.
3. Sketch of the pool outline showing the location and separation distance of the proposed covers.
4. State the volume of the pool or spa. State the flow rate of all recirculation and feature pumps.
5. Velocity calculation through the open area assuring that the velocity through a single cover does not exceed 1.5 feet per second at 100% recirculation rate.
6. Submission can be made by the facility owner or operator and does not require the retention of a licensed professional engineer or architect.

B. Pools with a single main drain (other than an unblockable drain) or multiple main drains separated by less than three feet apart: These pools are required to replace the main drain covers and are required to have a device or system designed to prevent suction entrapment. For these pools the following information is to be submitted by a licensed Professional Engineer or Registered Architect to the Nassau County Department of Health:

1. Items numbers 1 through 5 above.
2. Schematic of the pool recirculation system indicating the proposed installation of the device or system designed to prevent entrapment.
3. Name of manufacturer and model number of the anti-entrapment device. Provide a copy of the manufacturers specifications.
4. Hydraulic calculations to ensure the head loss through the proposed anti-entrapment device does not affect the required recirculation rate.

* The term unblockable drain means a drain of any size and shape that a human body cannot sufficiently block to create a suction entrapment hazard.

Please be informed, a reduced fee schedule was developed for those facilities required to only replace their main drain covers. Included in the enclosed fee schedule are fees for facilities that plan to make additional modifications. Please reference this chart and remit payment with your submission to the following address:

Nassau County Health Department
106 Charles Lindbergh Blvd.
Uniondale, N.Y. 11553
Attn: Angela Pettinelli, P.E.

The following contact names and telephone numbers are provided should you have any additional questions:

Angela Pettinelli – (516) 227-9720
Mark Rothstein – (516) 227-9711
Susan Haller – (516) 227-9657

Very truly yours,

Angela Pettinelli, P.E., Director
Office of Recreational Facilities
Bureau of Environmental Engineering

