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Retired NASA Material Scientist to Visit Charlottesville and translate new swimming pool safety act

Charlottesville, VA - April 24, 2009 – Ray Cronise studied Chemistry in undergraduate and Graduate School. Before joining the pool industry as a composite pool manufacturer, he was a material scientist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and took an early retirement in 1999. During the last 8 years, he has served on many pool and spa ANSI writing committees in addition to the Association of Pool and Spa Professional's Technical Committee and Builder's Council. He has been active in suction entrapment safety speaking, research, and standards writing for the past 8 years.

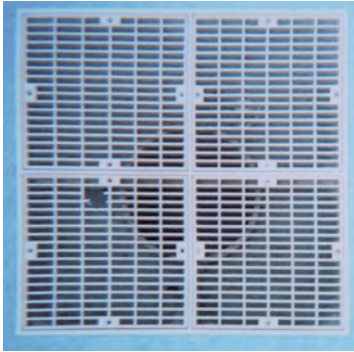
The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, which was originally enacted in December of 2007 went into effect on December 19, 2008. The new safety act requires that anti-entrapment drain covers be installed on all existing public pools in addition to other system changes to make these pools safer places for our children. Mr. Cronise is an avid researcher with over 30 peer-reviewed journal publications, along with many pool and composite industry trade publication magazines. He has conducted extensive research in suction entrapment safety along with computational fluid dynamics studies on circulation. Recent media attention on the McIntire Wading Pool in Charlottesville was surrounding this new safety act. Charlottesville Aquatics will be sponsoring a free seminar given by Ray Cronise which will explain the safety act and the impact on which it has on all existing public pools. The seminar will be held at Charlottesville Aquatics – 3275 Berkmar Drive in Charlottesville on Monday, April 27th from 6-8pm. All are encouraged and welcome to attend this informative event.

Swimming pool fun is synonymous with summer fun and backyard relaxation. With the summer fast approaching and pool opening season already underway, it is imperative that all owners and operators of public pools operate a compliant facility. This seminar is a unique opportunity for all owners and operators to learn, first hand, from one of the top industry experts and to gain an understanding of how the safety act applies specifically to their facility.

Charlottesville Aquatics, Inc. established in 1973, is Central Virginia's leading in-ground swimming pool builder and was founded by Fred von Lewinski, the only local Certified Building Professional by the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals. Among our offering of a full range of products and services that promote health and relaxation – we exclusively offer portable spas manufactured by Watkins Manufacturing and a full service maintenance and repair department.

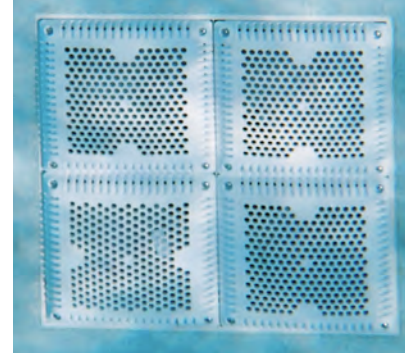
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Compliance is MORE than swapping Drain Covers! Is your pool compliant



Problem Existing Cover

The Fix?



Solution: Not Compliant



Remember when Pools used to be simple?

Assessing Compliance to the New Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa safety Act

Monday, April 27th, 2009

Charlottesville Aquatics
3275 Berkmar Drive
Charlottesville, VA
6pm - 8 pm



Guest Speaker: Ray Cronise

Ray will cover the basic overview of suction entrapment and what your facility can do to mitigate or eliminate this potential hazard residential and Public pools. There is a lot of misconception surrounding this new legislation.

Ray Cronise is a nationally expert on suction entrapment avoidance and mitigation. He studied Chemistry in undergraduate and Graduate School. Before joining the pool industry as a composite pool manufacturer, he was a material scientist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center for 15 years. Ray has served on many pool and spa ANSI writing committees in addition to the Association of Pool and Spa Professional's Technical Committee and Builder's Council. He has been active in suction entrapment safety speaking, research, and standards writing for the past 8 years.

Ray is an avid researcher with over 30 peer-reviewed journal publications, along with many pool and composite industry trade publication magazines. He has conducted extensive research in suction entrapment safety along with computational fluid dynamic studies on circulation. Currently he serves on the Faculty of the Pool Genius Network (www.poolgeniusnetwork.com).

What does the VGB Act mandate?

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB Act) was signed into federal law on December 19, 2007, with the support of the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP). **Please visit www.APSP.org/VGB for the latest information.**

Public pools and spas that are not in compliance by December 19, 2008, may not open for use until compliant.

The VGB Act contains three federally enforced mandates—each effective December 19, 2008:

1. All drain covers (public and residential) manufactured, imported, distributed, or offered into commerce must comply with the new ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 2007 standard.

Proof of compliance requires testing and certification by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory, except for “Field Fabricated Outlets” defined under Section 2.3.1 of the ASME standard. These specialized suction outlets may qualify for site-specific certification by a Registered Design Professional, as defined in Section 1.5 of the ASME standard.

2. All public pools and spas (new and existing) must be retrofitted with covers that meet the new ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 2007 standard, or qualified Field Fabricated Outlets may be certified by a Registered Design Professional, as stipulated in the ASME standard.
3. All public pools and spas that have a single drain other than an unblockable drain must employ one or more additional options.

This compliance guide does not address every public pool and spa configuration. For more thorough compliance guidance, including how to determine and address maximum system flow rates, follow the ANSI/APSP-7 Suction Entrapment Avoidance Standard.

For additional information, be sure to read the following. You can also consult an APSP member using the member locator at www.APSP.org.

- ANSI/APSP-7 Suction Entrapment Avoidance Standard. This standard meets or exceeds all the requirements of the VGB Act. To order, visit the APSP Store at www.APSP.org.
- ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 2007. To order, go to www.amse.org.
- APSP list of “Frequently Asked Questions” at www.APSP.org/VGB_FAQs.



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Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act



APSP COMPLIANCE GUIDE

For public pool and spa owners
and operators, builders, and
service professionals



HOW do I know if my public pool and spa complies with the VGB Act?

Public pools and spas built before December 19, 2007, are not compliant unless they were built without submerged suction outlets, or the suction system has since been modified to comply. To help determine compliance, use the following steps:



Determine if your drain covers comply with the VGB Act, Section 1404(c)(1)(A)(i), by answering the following:

- 1 Are the cover(s) marked with “VGB 2008,” “ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 2007,” or the swimmer logo*? Or have qualified Field Fabricated Outlets been certified by a Registered Design Professional? Yes No
- 2 For single and dual outlet systems, is the flow rating for each cover equal to or greater than the Maximum System GPM? Or for systems with three or more covers per pump—assume one is completely blocked off and then ask—is the combined flow rating of all unblocked covers equal to or greater than the Maximum System GPM? Yes No
- 3 Is the cover properly secured, according to the manufacturer’s instructions, to a manufactured sump or field-built sump design, and is the cover tested and certified by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL)? Yes No



If the answer to any of these questions is “No,” the pool does not comply.

Corrective Action:

- If the cover(s) are not qualified Field Fabricated Outlet(s), go to www.APSP.org/CoversandSVRS.org for a list of APSP-member manufacturers that offer compliant covers, or visit www.cpsc.gov. Ask the manufacturer if their covers include a flow rating greater than the Maximum System GPM and are certified by an NRTL for use on the existing sump.
- If the cover(s) are qualified Field Fabricated Outlet(s), you must consult a Registered Design Professional for certification. Qualified Field Fabricated Outlets are large enough that the 18 x 23-inch body blocking element will not cause differential pressure that could cause body entrapment, as defined by the procedures of the ASME standard. The Registered Design Professional will be responsible for certifying all requirements of the ASME standard, including but not limited to flow rating, cover strength, and sump design.



Determine if your back-up options comply with the VGB Act, Section 1404(c)(1)(A)(ii), by answering the following:

- 1 If the pool has a multiple main-drain system (i.e., more than one suction outlet per pump), is the center-to-center distance between the two covers at least 36 inches? Yes No

If “Yes,” then no further corrective action is required.

If “No,” this is considered a single-drain system for purposes of complying with the VGB Act (see “Corrective Action” below for single-drain systems).

- 2 If the pool has a single-suction outlet, is it unblockable? Determine by answering the following:
 - A. Does the sump exceed 18 x 23 inches?
 Yes No
 - B. Does the sump have an open-area diagonal that exceeds 29 inches?
 Yes No

If the answers to 2(A) and 2(B) are “Yes,” then no further corrective action is required.

If the answer to 2(A) OR 2(B) is “No,” this is considered a single-drain system for purposes of complying with the VGB Act (see “Corrective Action” below for single-drain systems).

Corrective Action: To get single-drain systems to comply, you must use one of the following options:

- A. Consider drain disablement or reversal of the flow.
- B. Install additional properly spaced outlet(s) with compliant cover(s).
- C. Install safety vacuum release system(s) (SVRS)*.
- D. Install a gravity drainage system.
- E. Install a suction-limiting vent system.
- F. Install an automatic pump shut-off system*.

*For a list of APSP member companies that manufacture SVRS products or automatic pump shut-off systems, go to www.APSP.org/CoversandSVRS.org.

Visit www.APSP.org/VGB for the latest information.