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Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Act Fact Sheet

Question: When did this law take effect?

Answer: December 19, 2008

Question: What are the basic requirements of this law?

Answer: The Act requires three basic things for all public pools and spas.

1. The first requirement is that the main drain grate/cover be replaced with one that meets the requirements of the new ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 performance standard, "Suction Fittings for Use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs."
2. The second requirement is that pools that do not have a VGB compliant multiple drain system, or a single suction outlet that meets the definition of "unblockable," have the direct pump suction drainage system entrapment hazard mitigated by one of six methods, i.e., changes to the recirculation system.
 - Safety Vacuum Release System conforming to ASME/ANSI standard A112.19,17 or ASTM standard 2387
 - Suction-Limiting Vent System with a tamper-resistant atmospheric opening
 - Gravity Drainage System with a collector tank
 - Automatic Pump Shut-Off System
 - Drain Disablement device or system, or
 - Other Systems that the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) approves.
3. Grates/Covers manufactured, distributed, or entered into commerce in the United States shall conform to the new federal standard.

NOTE: Although the Federal Act provides that compliance may be achieved by permanently disabling or plugging up the main drain (disabling option), this may adversely affect the design capabilities of the pool circulation system so that it does not meet other health requirements.

Question: Who is the responsible organization for enforcement of this federal law?

Answer: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is the authorized enforcement agency. However, our county ordinance cannot be less restrictive than the federal act.

Question: Will public pools and spas have to meet Clay County Public Health Center Rules and Regulations too?

Answer: Yes, the federal Act does not change our requirements.

Question: Who should be contacted to determine if a pool is in compliance with the Act, or to tell you what must be done to comply with the Act?

Answer: If you are unable to determine if your facility's pool(s) and spa(s) comply with the Act, you must contact a "trained or certified pool professional." The state does not require registration or certification for pool professionals, so there is not a list to refer to. Most professional pool service companies should be able to help you. (Professionals should be formally licensed or certified as a business and carry some level of insurance or similar protection)

Question: Where can you get more information on the *Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act*?

Answer: Most pool supply businesses and pool service companies should be able to answer your questions concerning the requirements of this Act.