

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 17, 2008

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DES Reminds Public of New Pool and Spa Safety Rules

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Public Pool and Spa Program wants to remind the public that new federal requirements related to pool and spa safety take effect December 19, 2008. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) through the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB) are imposing mandatory requirements for suction entrapment avoidance measures for the safe use of pools and spas.

The Act requires that each public pool and spa, both new and existing, shall be equipped with drain covers/grates conforming to the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 - 2007 performance standard.

Additionally, each public pool and spa (pump) serving a single main drain, other than an unblockable drain, shall be equipped with one or more additional devices or systems designed to prevent suction entrapment that meet the requirements of any applicable ASME/ANSI Standard or applicable consumer product safety rule.

Such additional devices or systems include:

1. **safety vacuum release system (SVRS):** A safety vacuum release system which ceases operation of the pump, reverses the circulation flow, or otherwise provides a vacuum release at a suction outlet when a blockage is detected, that has been tested by an independent third party and found to conform to ASME/ANSI standard A112.19.17 or ASTM standard F2387.
2. **suction limiting vent system:** A suction-limiting vent system with a tamper-resistant atmospheric opening.
3. **gravity drainage system:** A gravity drainage system that utilizes a collector tank.
4. **automatic pump shutoff system:** An automatic pump shut-off system.
5. **drain disablement:** A device or system that disables the drain.
6. **other system:** Any other system determined by the CPSC to be equally effective as, or better than, the systems described in subclauses (I) through (V) of this clause at preventing or eliminating the risk of injury or death associated with pool drainage systems.

DES warns that disabling a drain may drastically impact the circulation, filtration and disinfection system. Such action may make it impossible or difficult to maintain the water quality standards set forth in NH Administrative rules, Env-Wq 1100. DES requires that any proposed changes to the structure and/or circulation system must be submitted to the DES for approval prior to initiating any work. For more information, please contact Tim Wilson, DES Public Pool and Spa Program at 603 271-7108.

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