



NOTICE:
Pool and Spa Safety Act 2007

**ALL PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL & SPA OWNERS / OPERATORS
PLEASE TAKE NOTE**

On December 19, 2007, Congress passed the [“Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act” \(Pool & Spa Safety Act\)](#), which increases standards for entrapment hazard safety for all public pools in the United States. The act goes into effect on December 19, 2008, and will be enforced by the Consumer Products Safety Commission.

The Pool & Spa Safety Act applies to all existing and newly constructed public pools & spas that do not have an “unblockable” suction outlet (main drain) on each system connected to a pump, and are not equipped with 2007 ANSI standard Anti-entrapment drain covers.

The new federal law requires all pools & spas to be equipped with anti-entrapment devices or systems that comply with the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8, 2007, performance standard. The act requires such pools and spas with a single blockable suction outlet system (main drain) to modify the system to prevent entrapment. These modifications include:

- SAFETY VACUUM RELEASE SYSTEM – Install 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;
- SUCTION LIMITING VENT SYSTEM – Install a suction-limiting vent system with a tamper-resistant atmospheric opening;
- GRAVITY DRAINAGE SYSTEM – Install a gravity drainage system that utilizes a collector tank;
- AUTOMATIC PUMP SHUT-OFF SYSTEM – Install an automatic pump shut-off system;
- DRAIN DISABLEMENT – Install a device or system that disables the drain;

Any Vacuum release, automatic pump shut-off, or drain disablement system must be installed in conjunction with an approved alarm and/or reset system that will ensure the integrity of the water quality of the pool or spa (NAC 444.152, & NAC 444.484).

Dual Suction Outlets (main drains):

Alternate compliance strategies include the installation of dual suction outlets (main drains). This involves retrofitting the pool by splitting the single suction outlet into two outlets, separated by four (4) feet but no greater than 6 feet, with ANSI 2007 anti-entrapment/anti-entrapment covers (or grates provided the velocity through each grate does not exceed 1.5 feet/second).

Dual suction outlets may be affected in spas by splitting the single suction outlets into two outlets, separated by three (3) feet but no greater than 6 feet, with ANSI 2007 anti-entrapment covers. It is important to note here that each system connected to a pump would require a set of suction outlets (one set of two for the disinfection system, one set of two for the booster system, for example). Dual suction outlets as described here meet the requirements for “unblockable” drains.

A single suction outlet (main drain) is considered to be “unblockable” if it is of a size and shape that a human body cannot sufficiently block to create a suction entrapment hazard. According to the [CPSC Draft Guideline](#), this includes:

- Drain configurations that prevent a seal from occurring (large aspect anti-entrapment cover, such as 18” x 23” or larger covers);
- Long channels that cannot be blocked by the body;
- Large outlet grate (diagonal measure of 29” or more);
- Circulation designs that do not include fully submerged suction outlets;

Any installation or retrofitting of equipment described above must be conducted under a permit to remodel issued by SNHD, following formal submission and approval of plans. Any alteration that involved changing piping under the pool shell or deck, or involved significant structural or plumbing alteration, will be charged as a “Major Remodel”. Other alterations, such as the installation of automatic vacuum detection and shut off systems (SVRS) that do not involve plumbing changes will be charged as a “Minor Remodel”.

Pools & Spas under construction and remodel will be evaluated for compliance with these standards, and current regulations enforced by SNHD will be interpreted to be in compliance with these federal standards.