

# Aquatic Health Plan Approval: Speed Bumps and Changes

Candice Konold, Senior Environmental Health Specialist  
Southern Nevada Health District  
February 24, 2022



# Plan Review Process

- Application intake meeting
- Initial plans and application review
- Initial review comments returned to applicant
  - Review of any corrections or plans resubmittals (if needed – additional review time required)
  - Reviewer comments regarding corrections or resubmittals sent to applicant (if needed)
- Construction inspections scheduled by facility
  - Excavation and Plumbing
  - Pre-plaster
  - Final permitting inspection

# Plan Approval - Common Speed Bumps

## ➤ Incomplete submittals

- Missing plans, equipment specifications, or other information
  - Submitters: double check the intake checklist to be sure all required items are included

## ➤ Errors

- Example: the drain specified on the plans doesn't match the drains drawn on the plans
  - Submitters: double check for inconsistencies or have a fresh set of eyes proof the submittal

## ➤ Correspondence from SNHD staff not being seen

- We often get requests for status updates after the plan reviewer has sent a list of deficiencies that need fixing. Sometimes this happens weeks after, sometimes it happens months after.
  - Submitters: regularly check on correspondence
  - SNHD: staff will follow up 1 – 2 weeks after sending review results to ensure they have been received and answer any questions


Drain Covers

vs.

Suction Outlet Fitting Assemblies (SOFAs):  
What's the dif???



# What changed?

- 
- The American National Standard for Suction Outlet Fitting Assemblies for Use in Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs (ANSI/APSP/ICC-16 2017)
    - New testing procedures have resulted in different **flow rates** and **sump** and **pipe** requirements for existing cover designs
    - SOFAs manufactured after May 24, 2021 must conform to the new standard
  - Labeling
    - “Old” drain covers are embossed with ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 (2007, 2008a, or 2009b), ANSI/APSP-16 2011, or VGB 2008
    - “New” SOFAs are embossed with VGBA 2017 and a manufactured date after May 24, 2021

# Do existing drain covers have to be replaced RIGHT NOW?

➤ If your existing covers are:

- Sized appropriately,
- In good condition, and
- Within their installation life span

then NO, they do not need to be replaced immediately. But...

➤ Identical replacement covers, i.e., those that have the exact same model number and are tested to the exact same standard, may be difficult or impossible to find.

# What do I need to do?

- Find out what is installed in your venue and when it will reach the end of its installation life.
- Find out what is behind the existing cover.
  - Things such as pipe size and length, sump dimensions, and how the pipe is positioned in the sump need to be determined.
- Look for a replacement to use when a cover does need replacing.
  - This can be a cover that is identical in both model number and testing standard to the existing cover, or
  - A completely different cover that meets the needs of your venue.

# What do I need to do? continued

- Talk to a Nevada-licensed contractor.
  - Major changes may be needed at the aquatic venue to keep a venue compliant when a new cover needs to be installed, such as splitting outlets (drains). Reaching out to a contractor in advance will help you be prepared for the eventual switch to a new SOFA.
  - A different SOFA may not be your only option. Changing a pump may also be a way to achieve compliance.
- Check with the SNHD **before** making any changes.
  - Most likely, a Minor Remodel (Non-substantial Alteration) will be needed if anything other than an identical cover will be installed. Written approval must be granted before any work begins to ensure the intended SOFA will be approvable and avoid additional fees and delays.