



Salt Lake Valley Health Department

Division of Environmental Health

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December 18, 2008

**Re: The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB Act)**

Dear Public Pool Owner/ Operator,

Legislation passed by the U.S. Congress in December of 2007 requires safety improvements to be made on drain systems at all public pools and spas by 12/19/08. The text of the "VGB Act" can be found online at: [www.cpsc.gov/pssa.pdf](http://www.cpsc.gov/pssa.pdf). An easy-to-read interpretation of the act can also be found online at: <http://www.apsp.org/clientresources/documents/2Summaryof%20P-SSafetyAct.pdf>.

If your pool has a single outlet you must employ one or more of the following anti-entrapment safety options:

- Dual Main Drains
- Safety Vacuum Release Systems
- Suction Limiting Vent System
- Automatic pump shut-off
- Unblockable drains

Dual Main Drains

Even if your pool has more than one main drain or suction outlet, this new federal legislation requires you to install an ANSI/ASME A112.19.8 2007 compliant frame and grates or covers. This includes pools which have had recent main drain remodels from single to dual drains since compliant grates and covers have only recently become available and may not be available for all drain sizes.

Suction Vacuum Release System (SVRS)

A single main drain can also be made compliant by installing an ANSI/ASME A112.19.8 2007 compliant frame and grate along with a safety vacuum release system (SVRS). If this option is exercised, the SLVHD will require that a warning buzzer be installed with the SVRS. This system will not be installed on a pool with a hydrostatic valve installed in the drain sump. We will require that weekly checks of the SVRS be conducted and

recorded in the pool's log. As always, this logbook must be kept on site along with the last two years of records and must be made available to a SLVHD Inspector when requested.

#### Suction Limiting Vent System

The Suction Limiting Vent System is an engineered control which employs the use of a diaphragm that breaks when the suction pressure increases.

#### Automatic pump shut-off

Mechanical pumps have been designed with automatic shut-off switches built into them. Contact your pool contractor for availability.

#### Unblockable Drain

You can also bring your pool into compliance by installing an ANSI/ASME A112.19.8 2007 listed anti-entrapment cover larger than 18" x 23".

Because the equalizer line serving the pool skimmer is considered to be a suction outlet, the SLVHD will require it to be capped with a compliant cover or plugged off. If it is plugged off, we recommend installation of an automatic level controller to prevent damage to the circulation pump.

The SLVHD will require all dual main drain renovations, installations of anti-entrapment covers, retrofits of compliant frame and grate assemblies, unblockable drain covers and SVRS installations to be engineered by Utah-certified engineering firms and approved by SLVHD prior to installation. This is to assure proper sumps have been designed when they are required, and the correct anti-entrapment cover for a particular piping and flow schematic has been installed.

We thank those facilities which are currently coming into compliance with this much needed legislation and are eager to assist any others who are starting the process. Please feel free to contact our office at 801-313-6700 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Rolf E. Larsen  
Supervisor  
Bureau of Water Quality and Hazardous Waste