



# Alexandria Health Department



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Health Director

**REPLY TO:**

**Environmental Health Division**

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Dear Pool Owners and Pool Management Companies:

This letter is a reminder that on December 19, 2008, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act became effective for all water recreation facilities. Federal regulations require that seasonal water recreation facilities be in compliance prior to resuming operations for the 2009 swimming season.

For those facilities that are not compliant, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) requirements and procedures are listed below.

***CPSC Requirement 1:*** All drain covers must conform to ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007.

***Procedure 1:*** Prior to or during the preoperational inspection of seasonal facilities, a specification sheet for each type of compliant main drain cover installed must be provided to the Health Department. This specification sheet shall clearly indicate the maximum flow rate allowed. The maximum system flow rate shall not exceed the flow rating of any listed suction outlet cover installed.

***CPSC Requirement 2:*** Existing facilities with pump systems operating with a single, blockable main drain must be retrofitted with dual main drains, an unblockable main drain, or equipped with an anti-entrapment device or system that complies with the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 performance standard. These devices and systems include:

- A safety-vacuum release system (SVRS),
- A suction-limiting vent system,
- A gravity drainage system,
- An automatic pump shut-off system, or
- Any other system determined by the CPSC to be equally effective as or better than the devices and systems listed above.

***Procedure 2:*** Renovations are not required for existing facilities with multiple main drains or an unblockable main drain for each pump system. Facilities that require renovations to install multiple main drains, an unblockable main drain, or an anti-entrapment device or system shall submit a plan review application and two sets of detailed plans to the Alexandria Health Department. Upon approval of the plans by the Health Department, renovations may begin.

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The Health Department shall conduct two inspections on the renovations. The first inspection will be on the piping retrofit, steel reestablishment and pressure test. The second will be the final construction inspection after completion of the renovations, including installation of main drain covers that meet ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007. The final construction inspection will be conducted when the preoperational inspection is conducted.

A permit from the Building and Fire Code Administration, 301 King Street, Suite 4200, Alexandria, VA 22314, ((703) 838-4360) must be obtained prior to starting renovations that require plumbing and/or electrical work (i.e. SRVS Stingl Switch). Upon completion of renovations, a final inspection shall be conducted by the Building and Fire Code Administration.

Contractors installing identical anti-entrapment systems or devices at multiple facilities may submit two sets of plans per prototype design provided that they refer to this design in the plan review application. However, individual plan review applications will still be required for each facility.

**Any facility found to have been renovated without prior submission and approval of renovation plans and/or obtaining a permit to operate upon successful completion of a final construction inspection must show verifiable evidence of compliance before they will be allowed to open for the season. The Alexandria Health Department reserves the right to require that the piping be exposed to verify that it has been installed in accordance with Code specifications.**

If you have any questions, you may contact Stephen Hughes at (703) 838-4400, ext. 250 or [stephen.hughes@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:stephen.hughes@vdh.virginia.gov)

Sincerely,

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Alexandria Health Department