

TITLE XIV - POOL AND SPA SAFETY

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VIRGINIA GRAEME BAKER POOL AND SPA SAFETY ACT

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act was signed into law by the president on December 19, 2007. The Act was promulgated to address the injuries and fatalities associated with drowning deaths and submersion-related suction entrapments in swimming pools and spas. Consumer Product Safety Commission statistics show that between 2003 and 2005 the yearly average of emergency room submersion-related injuries was 2,700 and drowning deaths, 283.

The effective date of the provisions of the Act was December 19, 2008. Facilities that must comply include “public pools and spas,” which are defined as swimming pools or spas:

1. Open to the public generally, whether for a fee or free of charge
2. Open exclusively to members of an organization and their guests
3. Open exclusively to residents of a multi-unit apartment building, apartment complex, residential real estate development, or other multi-family residential area (other than a municipality, township, or other local government jurisdiction)
4. Open exclusively to patrons of a hotel or other public accommodations facility

5. Operated by the federal government (or by concessionaire on behalf of the federal government) for the benefit of members of the armed forces and their dependents or employees of any department or agency and their dependents

The Act focuses on preventing entrapment-related swimming pool and spa-related occurrences by addressing and implementing controls, such as:

1. Devices that comply with ANSI/ASME A112.19.8; drain covers VGB2008
2. Safety Vacuum Release Systems (must comply with ANSI/ASME A112.19.17 of ASTM F2387
3. Suction Limiting Vent System
4. Automatic Pump Shut-Off System
5. Gravity Drainage System
6. Drain Disablement
7. Unblockable Drains
8. Or other any other system that is determined by the Commission to be equally effective or better than the above listed systems

Since there are a number of nuances associated with the Act as well as other related conditions that may apply, please find attached some helpful links to further educate your organization on the provisions contained in, and how to comply with, the Act.

The link below is to a webinar by the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals. Approximately an hour long, it covers all aspects of the standard and its implications.

http://www.apsp.org/career_institute/play.html

To access the Consumer Product Safety Commissions CPSC Title XIV – Pool and Spa Act, go to:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/pssa.pdf>





The American National Standards Institute for the ANSI/ASME A112.19.7 – 2007 standard, denoted with in this Act, can be accessed at:

<http://webstore.ansi.org/RecordDetail.aspx?sku=ANSI%2FASME+A112.19.8-2007>

The following link is to the ANSI/ASPS – 7 standard for design and performance criteria for circulation systems, including components, devices and related technology installed to protect against entrapment hazards in residential and public swimming pools, wading pools, spas, hot tubs and catch basins.

<http://webstore.ansi.org/RecordDetail.aspx?sku=ANSI%2FAPSP-7+2006>

The CPSC June 18, 2008 Staff Interpretation of Section 1404: “Federal Swimming Pool and Spa Drain Cover Standard” can be accessed at:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/phth/vgpsa.pdf>

The last link is from the Association of Pool and Spa Professional and compares the Federal Pool and Spa Safety Act with ANSI/APSP-7, and ICC International Building and Residential Codes.

http://www.apsp.org/clientresources/documents/Comparison%20Chart%20Act-ICC%20ANSI-7%20_2_.pdf

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