



Determining When Pool Plan Review is Required by the Health Department

Guidelines to comply with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act

Effective December 19, 2008, all public water recreation facilities regulated by state and local health jurisdictions in Washington State will need to comply with new federal law requirements. Owners and operators of these facilities:

- Must install new drain covers that meet the new federal safety standards.
- Must also install additional entrapment prevention equipment that meets the federal law and Washington State requirements when their facility has a single-main drain.

Note: Any design that places multiple drains closer than 3 feet between the centerlines of the drain covers is identified by the Consumer Product Safety Commission as so similar in entrapment potential to a single drain that additional entrapment prevention systems are required to comply with the federal law. Likewise, multiple drain systems that allow any individual drain to be the sole source of suction are considered single drain systems and require additional entrapment prevention systems.

When planning to comply with the new federal law, contact your local health jurisdiction if your pool is in **Clark, King, Pierce, Snohomish, or Spokane counties**. These local health jurisdictions may require plan review for projects that the state Department of Health does not. For all other counties, contact the state Department of Health. Contact information is available at www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/wr/permit-contactlist.pdf.

Department of Health Plan Review Requirements		
Work Performed to Comply with New Federal Law	DOH Plan Review	
	Required	Not Required
Installing a new main drain cover ¹ on an existing outlet sump that meets the cover manufacturer's specifications and the <i>ASME A112.19.8-2007</i> standard.		●
Installing a complete manufactured suction outlet, including cover, mounting frames, and sump meeting the <i>ASME A112.19.8-2007</i> standard.		●
Installing new covers on equalizer lines (sumps not required).		●
Installing a manufactured unblockable drain ¹ and an automatic or manual emergency shutoff and audible alarm.		●
Installing Safety Vacuum Release Systems.		●
Confirming that existing dual or multiple drains can not function as a single main drain.		●
Installing a field fabricated sump or cover, or both to meet <i>ASME A112.19.8-2007</i> .	▲	
Installing Suction Limiting Vent Systems.	▲	
Installing Gravity Drainage Systems.	▲	
Converting a single main drain system to a multiple main drain system.	▲	
Disabling main drain(s).	▲	
▲ = Requires engineer or architect verification of compliance with the federal law using the DOH construction report.		
● = Compliance can be verified by a pool professional ² completing the <i>Compliance Verification Form</i> , which is available at www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/wr/rules.htm .		

¹All replacement covers, including "unblockable drains," must meet the product performance standard of *Suction Fittings for Use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs, ASME A112.19.8-2007*.

²Pool professional is a person that has several years of experience in the pool contracting or service industry. Pool professionals are typically trained and certified to Tech Level 1 or 2 through the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals or other national pool organizations.