



Richard J. Berry, Mayor

City of Albuquerque
Environmental Health Department
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Mary Lou Leonard, Director

November 2016

TO: PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL AND SPA
OWNERS AND OPERATORS

SUBJECT: THE NEW FEDERAL SWIMMING POOL AND SPA
DRAINAGE COVER STANDARD

On December 19, 2007, President Bush signed into law the **Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act**, which becomes effective December 19, 2009. This law is intended to stop entrapment and/or evisceration, particularly of children, by pool drains in public pools. This is a federal law and will be enforced by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in accordance with enforcement procedures of the Consumer Product Safety Act and by the inspectors working for the Commission's Office of Compliance. A willful violation of the Consumer Product Safety Act could result in criminal penalties, including fines and imprisonment, under Section 21 of the Consumer Product Safety Act. 15 U.S.C § 2070(a). **The City of Albuquerque is providing this notification and explanation of the Act to assist you in achieving compliance.**

Requirements

1. Each public pool and spa must be equipped with anti-entrapment drain covers, ON EVERY DRAIN/GRATE, that meet the new performance standards of ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007. All drain covers manufactured after November, 2009 are, by law, to be compliant with this standard.
2. Each public pool and spa with a single main drain (other than an unblockable drain) must also be equipped with an additional anti – entrapment device or system, such as: a safety vacuum release system (SVRS); a suction-limiting vent system; a gravity drainage system; an automatic pump shut-off system; a drain disablement; or other systems determined to be equally effective or better than the above described systems. Multiple main drains, at least 3 feet apart, do not have to have an additional system as described in this paragraph.

For pool owners and operators of pools with multiple drains -please be advised that the Consumer Product Safety Commission considers the following to be single drains that must comply with #2 above:

- multiple drains with independent drain system – If any drain is served by a separate, dedicated pump, then each such drain is a single main drain; and
- a group of suction outlets connected together is considered a single main drain if the centers of the outlets are located within three feet of one another.

Pools and spas not open on December 19th are not required to be in compliance with these requirements until the pool or spa reopens for business.

For further information please contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission online at <http://www.cpsc.gov/> or by its **Toll-free Consumer Hotline: 800-638-2772**. Hotline staff may be reached from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm ET. Information on drain covers certified by UL is available at <http://www.ul.com>.