



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

### EHS Circular Letter #2008-26

TO: Directors of Health/Districts  
Chief Sanitarians  
Building Officials

FROM: Pamela E. Scully  
Sanitary Engineer III  
Recreation Program  
Environmental Health Section

RE: EXISTING PUBLIC POOLS – MAIN DRAIN ISSUES

DATE: April 14, 2008

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The *Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act Of 2007* requires existing public pools (swimming, wading, whirlpool spa, etc.) to comply with new safety measures by December 20, 2008. We are requesting your assistance in the dissemination of this information to town officials/ stakeholders who have oversight of public pools in your town/district. The new requirements are as follows:

- All public pools must either be equipped with anti-entrapment devices or systems that comply with the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 performance standard. This can be accomplished by retrofitting all main drains, with the exception of an unblockable drain, in public pools with a drain cover that conforms to the entrapment protection standard of the current ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 performance standard.  
*(An unblockable drain is defined as a drain of any size and shape that a human body cannot sufficiently block to create a suction entrapment hazard)*
- Any public pool with a single main drain, with the exception of an unblockable drain, shall be equipped, at minimum, with one or more of the following devices or systems designed to prevent entrapment by a public pool drain:
  1. A safety vacuum release system which ceases operation of the pump, reverses the circulation flow, or otherwise provides a vacuum release at a suction outlet when a blockage is detected, that has been tested by an independent third party and found to conform to ASME/ANSI A112.19.17 or ASTM standard F2387;
  2. A suction – limiting vent system with a tamper – resistant atmospheric opening;
  3. A gravity drainage system that utilizes a collector tank (balancing or surge tank);
  4. An automatic pump shut-off system.

As an alternative to installing one of the devices or system listed above, a second main drain could be installed. In the case where the public pool in question is a wading pool, a second main must be installed to comply with the Connecticut Public Swimming Pool Design Guide. The two main drains (the existing drain and the newly installed second drain) must comply with the requirements of the most current Connecticut Public Swimming Pool Design Guide.

As you conduct your inspections of the existing public pools, we would appreciate it if you would please distribute a copy of this letter to the appropriate party. Please call this office at 860-509-7296 with any questions. Thank you.

cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH  
Pamela Kilbey-Fox, Branch Chief, Local Health Administration Branch, DPH



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