



Department of Land Use

Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act Fact sheet:

- 1) The Consumer Products Safety Commission is responsible for enforcing the law.
- 2) Doug Lodge, 741-8588, Public Pool Division, Board of Health, State of Delaware has sent written notification of this law to all public pools located in the State of Delaware in January of 2009.
- 3) The law only applies to public pools and the Federal Government considers any pool serving two or more units as a public pool.
- 4) The law, which deals primarily with the circulating filtration drains in public pools and the construction standards for drain covers, went into effect December 19, 2008.
- 5) The law requires that new and existing public swimming pools be equipped with approved drains **and** a drainage system, which prevent a suction entrapment hazard.
- 6) In addition, all newly manufactured drain covers must meet the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 standard and are normally labeled "VGB 2008." Field-fabricated covers may be approved if certified by a PE.

Furthermore, **all** new swimming pools in New Castle County, whose permit is issued 1/1/2009 and forward are required to have: 1) all the suction outlets (drains) designed to produce circulation throughout the pool and be protected against user entrapment. 2) all suction outlets shall be provided with a ASME A 112.19.8M conforming cover, 12" by 12" or larger drain grate or an approved channel drain system. 3) the circulating systems shall be equipped with an ASME A112.19.17 conforming atmospheric vacuum relief system on the drain line or approved gravity drainage system. 4) at least 2 approved suction outlets located 3' apart and operating simultaneously through a vacuum-relief protected line to the pump(s) and 5) the cleaner fitting(s), where provided, shall be accessible and located at least 6" and no more that 12" below the minimum operational water level or as an attachment to the skimmer(s).