



Environmental Health Division

Food, Lodging, Institution and Swimming Pool Program
1203 Maple Street
Greensboro, NC 27405

t:336.641.3771

f:336.641.4812

www.co.guilford.nc.us/ehindex.html

ADAMS FARM SWIM CLUB
1903 Adams Farm Pkwy.
Greensboro, NC 27407
Attn: George Federick

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 1, 2009

TO: Public Swimming Pool Owners and Operators

FROM: Guilford County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division

RE: Compliance with ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 Suction Fittings for Use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs

As a result of the "Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act", all public swimming pools are required by federal law to comply with the new American National Standard ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 Suction Fittings for Use in Swimming Pools, Wading pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs. The law requires existing pools to fully comply with the new standard by December 19, 2008. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is currently empowered to enforce the act.

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Health is in the process of adopting the new standard for enforcement by local health departments on all public swimming pools within their respective jurisdictions. This process **should** be complete with enforcement authority granted to the local health departments by May 1, 2010.

Since the federal law went into effect on December 19, 2008, it appears that there will be no delayed enforcement (i.e. "grandfathering") of the requirements by the local health departments once the standards have been adopted for inclusion into the North Carolina rules. This means that the requirements must be fully met on each public swimming pool on the effective date of the rule changes.

To verify compliance with the new drain safety standard this department will require owners of all public swimming pools to provide the following documentation:

1. Documentation of the maximum possible flow rate for each pump suction system. This shall be the maximum pump flow shown on the manufacturer's pump performance curve except where flow reductions are justified with total dynamic head measurements or calculations; and
2. Documentation that cover/grates meeting ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 are installed in compliance with the standard and manufacturer's instructions. This shall include documentation that each cover/grate on a single or double-drain pump suction system is rated to meet or exceed the maximum pump system flow and that cover/grates on a pump suction system with three or more suction outlets are together rated to always meet or exceed the maximum pump system flow with one drain completely blocked; and
3. Documentation that drain sumps meet the dimensional requirements specified in the cover/grate manufacturer's installation instructions.

In addition to the requirements listed above; pools with pumping systems that have a single submerged suction outlet other than an unblockable drain, or which have multiple outlets separated by less than three feet measured at the centers of the cover grates shall have a secondary method of preventing bather entrapment in accordance with ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007.

Pool owners are advised to fully evaluate these requirements and be prepared to provide the required documentation. If there is any doubt, please have the drains evaluated by a Registered Design Professional. In North Carolina, a Registered Design Professional means a Registered Engineer or Architect qualified to prepare plans and specifications for public swimming pools.

We encourage you to begin this process as soon as possible to help avoid a lengthy pool closure when this department begins enforcement of the new standard. **Please contact this office at 336-641-3771 prior to making any changes to your public swimming pool.**