



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Environmental Health

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

Terry L. Pierce
Director

Dee Freeman
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 14, 2009

TO: Public Swimming Pool Owners and Operators

FROM: Jim Hayes, Branch Head
Pools, Tattoos and State Institutions Branch

RE: 2010 Changes to Rules Governing Public Swimming Pools

The Division of Environmental Health has proposed some amendments to the North Carolina Rules Governing Public Swimming Pools that will likely affect swimming pool owners and operators in the upcoming pool season. The rules, proposed to take effect on May 1, 2010 will make the provisions of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act of 2007 fully enforceable at the state and local level. Pool owners will be required to provide documentation of compliance with the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 standard or their pools will be required to close until compliance is documented.

The documentation required must show that all submerged suction outlets, other than vacuum ports, have been covered with a cover/grate meeting the standard, that the drain sumps meet the dimensional requirements in the cover/grate manufacturer's installation instructions, and that the flow rating of main drain cover/grates is sufficient to handle the full flow of the pumping system with one drain completely blocked. Pools with a single main drain or multiple drains closer than 3 feet apart will be required to have a secondary means of preventing bather entrapment.

To help pool owners better understand the new pool drain safety standards and meet the documentation requirements, the Division of Environmental Health has launched a website at www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/ehs/pti_DrainSafetyCompliance.html . Please visit that site for more information.

Changes have been proposed for the pool fence requirements to be more consistent with international standards for pool fences. Fences that comply with the current fence requirements will continue to meet the amended rule except that pools with doors swinging from an occupied building into a pool enclosure will have to child-protect those doors with audible alarms.