



# JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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March 12, 2011

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** *2008 Rule!*  
**Federal Rule for Swimming Pools & Spas**  
**“VIRGINIA GRAEME BAKER POOL & SPA SAFETY ACT”**

Dear Pool Operator/Owner:

This is an important notice of a Federal Act which sets forth requirements that all public and semi-public pools in the U.S must comply with by **December 20, 2008** (or prior to opening after this date).

In 2007, President Bush signed into Law the “Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act of 2007”. This Act promotes pool and spa safety by imposing mandatory federal requirements for suction entrapment avoidance. Your public or semi-public pool is included in this mandate.

NEW IN 2010 - In August of 2010 the Act was incorporated into the revised Indiana State Department of Health Rule – “Public and Semi-Public Swimming Pools Rule 410 IAC 6-2.1”. **It will now be enforced by the Johnson County Health Department** as well as the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

A summary of the rule is printed on the back of this letter. In an effort to assist you in complying with the new rule, we have listed the following contact information:

- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (Another enforcer of the rule.)  
Phone: 301-504-7908  
E-mail: [info@cpsc.gov](mailto:info@cpsc.gov)  
Website: <http://www.poolsafety.gov/index.html>
- Indiana State Department of Health  
317-233-1325 (main switch board – please request Division of Sanitary Engineering)  
<http://www.in.gov/isdh/23281.htm>
- National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF)  
<http://www.nspf.com>

This rule has been in effect since December 20, 2008. We appreciate your cooperation in meeting this new Federal Rule prior to opening your seasonal pool. Compliance will ensure that the public is better protected from life threatening suction entrapment accidents as well as assure that your facility is protected from liability resulting from non-compliance. Please feel free to contact us with questions at (317) 346-4365.

Regards,

*Chris Menze*

**SUMMARY**  
**Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act**

In summary, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act effective **December 20, 2008** requires:

- Each public pool and spa, both new and existing, must be equipped with drain covers conforming to the [ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 - 2007 Standard](#).
- Each public pool and spa in the United States with a single main drain other than an unblockable drain be equipped, at a minimum, with 1 or more of the following devices or systems designed to prevent entrapment by pool or spa drains:
  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 standard 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.
  4. An automatic pump shut-off system.
  5. A device or system that disables the drain.
  6. Any other system approved by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to [ASME/ANSI standard A112.19.17](#) or [ASTM standard F2387](#).

**Safety Drain Covers. Each swimming pool or spa drain cover manufactured, distributed, or entered into commerce in the United States shall conform to the American National Standard [ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 - 2007 Suction Fittings for Use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs](#) published by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Compliance with this Standard will be enforced by the consumer.**

**APPROVED DRAIN COVERS & SVRS**

**A variety of drain covers in various sizes have been certified. View a complete listing of drain cover manufacturers who have received certification at [www.poolsafety.gov/draincman.html](http://www.poolsafety.gov/draincman.html).**

**A list of certified SVRS (Safety Vacuum Release System) can be found at [www.poolsafety.gov/svrsman.html](http://www.poolsafety.gov/svrsman.html).**