Shasta County

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
1855 Placer Street, Redding, CA 96001

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Dear Commercial Pool and Spa Operators:

This is an informational letter to educate you on the new Federal Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB) requirements. As of December 2007, the VGB Act was signed into Federal Law by President Bush. The main purpose of this Act is to increase the safety of swimming pools and spas by establishing a federal swimming pool and spa drain cover standard and ensuring pools and spas are equipped with the proper safety devices. At this time, the primary enforcement agency for this new law is the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The Shasta County Environmental Health Division cannot enforce the standards locally unless California State law is amended to include the VGB Act.

These new federal standards became effective on December 19, 2008. According to this federal law, all public swimming pools and spas, must be equipped with the following:

- Anti-entrapment drain covers that meet the American Society of Mechanical Engineers/American National Standards Institute (ASME/ANSI) A112.19.8-2007 performance standard, and

- One or more of the following systems when the suction outlet is **a single drain** other than an unblockable drain (defined by CPSC as having dimensions of 18"x23"):

  - A safety vacuum release system (SVRS);
  - A suction-limiting vent system;
  - A gravity drainage system;
  - An automatic pump shut-off system;
  - A drain disablement device or system (only allowed for skimmer equalizer lines);
  - And/or any other system determine by the CPSC to be equally effective as, or better than these systems at preventing or eliminating the risk of injury or death associated with pool drainage systems.

However, please be advised that any renovations that include splitting drains or adding devices to an existing pool or spa to meet the VGB Act must by approved by the Shasta County Environmental Health Division and/or your local building department. Submittal of plans may be required for this work.

If you have any questions regarding this advisory please contact:

- The Association of Pool and Spa Professionals website at www.apsp.org for information regarding the Act.
- Contact CPSC at info@cpsc.gov or (301) 504-7908 if you need further assistance. The CPSC website can be located at www.cpsc.gov.
- Kevin Westlake, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Shasta County Environmental Health Division, at (530) 225-5787.

For a full text of the new VGB Act from the federal Code, please visit the following website: www.nspf.org/Documents/HR6_TitleXIV.pdf.