

**DATE:** APRIL 21, 2010

**TO:** ALL PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL / SPA / WADING POOL OWNERS, OPERATORS, CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS

**SUBJECT:** COMPLIANCE WITH CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, SECTION 116064.2 (FEDERAL VIRGINIA GRAEME BAKER ACT)

**This law applies to all public pools, spas and wading pools. It applies to those pools located at apartments, condominiums, townhouses, hotels, motels, schools, health clubs, mobile home parks, medical facilities, and includes municipal, resort and community pools.**

Assembly Bill (AB 1020) was approved by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on October 11, 2009. This new section incorporates provisions of the federal Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Act into California State law and is intended to prevent suction drain entrapments and drownings. AB 1020 imposes time frames by which the requirements must be met. Every public swimming pool shall comply no later than July 1, 2010.

The new law requires that all public (pool/spa/wading) pools be retrofitted with approved drain covers manufactured after December 19, 2008. For public pools that has a single main drain that is not an unblockable drain will require additional modifications. Please review the attached guidelines for construction of suction outlet requirements for alternatives of approved modifications.

**The Shasta County Environmental Health Division (EHD) will be enforcing the new State law throughout Shasta County as follows:**

**By July 1, 2010**, owners of all public swimming pools and spas, **except** those listed below, must submit a "Certification of Compliance" form to EHD, verifying that their pool(s) meet all provisions of the new State law. California Department of Public Health has recently issued this form to be used as the compliance documentation by Pool Owners on their website:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/environhealth/water/Documents/RecHealth/PPSA%2010-01%20Enclosure.pdf>

This form shall be :

- Submitted within 30 days of completion of work; or, if completed prior to the form's availability, within 30 days of the form's publication.
- Signed by and license number provided by a contractor who holds a current valid license issued by the State of California or a professional engineer licensed in the State of California who has experience working on public swimming pools.

**Exemptions from the new law include:**

All pools built after December 19, 2008, are exempt from these requirements as they have already been approved by EHD and are in compliance with the new law.

All pools that have already been retrofitted to meet the new State law are exempt from these requirements. "Already retrofitted" means plans were submitted to EHD and either a final inspection was made by our staff or a "Certification of Compliance" form was filed with EHD.

**Pools not in compliance by July 1, 2010 may be subject to closure by Shasta County EH.**

## **Submittal of Plans**

Any person who proposes to build a new public pool; replaster or renovate an existing public pool; makes any plumbing changes to a public pool, drains a pool for any reason; changes drain covers or grates; or makes any equipment changes is required to submit plans to the EHD and pay a plan check fee prior to commencing work. This must be done prior to the issuance of any permits. An online plan check application can be obtained at the following website link:

<http://www.co.shasta.ca.us/Departments/Resourcegmt/drm/ehmain.htm>

At this time, Shasta County EHD may waive the requirement of plan submittal and plan check fee for drain cover or grate(s) replacement **ONLY**, if all the following are met:

- The work to take place on an existing public pool **only** requires the replacement of approved suction outlet covers. Please note, the equalizer line(s) is also required to be addressed with the new compliant drain cover. The drain covers are installed per manufacturer's specifications and in accordance with the construction requirements outlined on the next page. Be sure to contact the local Building Department or the County Building Division if in the unincorporated area for any necessary plan approval and permits prior to work.
- The suction outlet covers are installed by a qualified contractor that possess a current valid license issued by the State of California. (Please review below for contractor requirements)
- Within 30 days after completing the work, the qualified contractor shall complete the "Certification of Compliance" form and return the original copy to EHD. A field inspection by EHD will not be required for this VGB modification. **However, Shasta County EHD reserves the right to conduct an inspection of any pool that has had a "Certification of Compliance" form submitted to verify compliance; any discrepancies found will require immediate correction and may require closure. All other modifications to public pools and spas, not in conjunction with the VGB requirements, will continue to mandate the usual permitting and field inspections.**

## **Only Qualified Contractors Are Authorized to Conduct the Work:**

- All persons building a new public pool, replastering, resurfacing, renovating, or replumbing an existing public pool must possess a valid California C53 (pool builder) or an "A" (general engineering) contractor's license. (A C35 (plasterer) is only licensed to replaster a pool).
- Splitting drains or installing an unblockable drain will require a California C53 (pool builder), a California C36 (plumber) or an "A" (general engineering) contractor's license.
- A contractor with a California C61/D35 may replace drain covers, install safety vacuum release systems and evaluate sumps, but cannot modify any sumps.

## **Use of Divers**

Divers will be allowed to replace drain covers/grates and/or split drains with the following stipulations:

1. A plan check will be required before the commencement of any work.
2. The diver must possess one of the valid California contractor's licenses required above.

**For more specific information on the new requirements to prevent entrapment hazards in public swimming pools and spas contact the Shasta County EHD at (530) 225-5787 or go to the California Department of Health website at:**

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/environhealth/water/Pages/CaliforniaPublicSwimmingPoolRequirements.asp>

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## CONSTRUCTION OF SUCTION OUTLET REQUIREMENTS

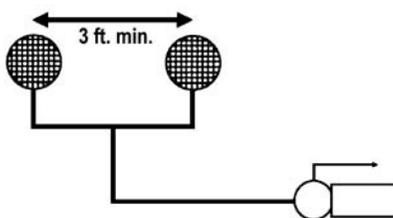
**Swimming pools and spas with existing split drain(s)**, must be evaluated by a licensed California contractor to ensure full compliance with Requirements (a) through (d) listed below. Additionally, these pools and spas will require retrofitting with new approved drain covers and must comply with requirements (e) through (h) listed below. Each pool must be evaluated by a licensed California contractor as most will require some type of modification (e.g. drain cover replacement).

**Swimming pools and spas with single drain(s) must be retrofitted with one of the following:**

- Split drains following requirements (a) through (i) listed below;
- Installation of an approved, “unblockable drain”. (An “unblockable drain” means a drain cover or grate with a minimum dimension of 23 inches x 18 inches OR a channel drain with a height of 3 inches or greater and length of 31 inches or greater)
- Installation of a safety vacuum release or automatic pump shut-off system. The system must comply with the latest ASME/ANSI A112.19.17 performance standards. Covers/grates will still need to be replaced with approved types. The safety vacuum release or automatic pump shut-off system must be installed per manufacturer’s instructions. To see a list of approved safety vacuum release systems, please visit the following site: <http://www.poolsafety.gov/svrsman.html>
- A suction-limiting vent system
- A gravity drainage system that utilizes a collector tank
- Other system deemed, in accordance with federal law, to be equally effective as, or more effective than the above listed systems

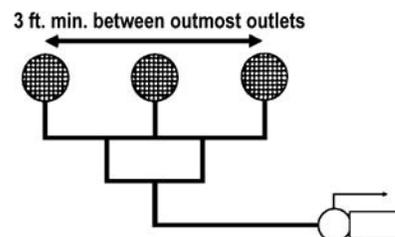
**Note: It shall be the responsibility of a public swimming pool owner / operator to perform all necessary future maintenance, testing, and calibration of equipment used in conjunction with the operation of this pool.**

- a. The suction side of each pump, located on any type of pool, shall be plumbed with at least two suction outlets. Suction outlets shall be separated by a distance of at least 3 feet, measured from the center of one suction pipe to the other. The suction drains must be plumbed with a T in the center that is hydraulically balanced. Each branch of the “T” must be at least the same size as the main suction plumbing. Note: Spas have two separate systems, one for the filtration and the other for the jets. Both systems need to comply

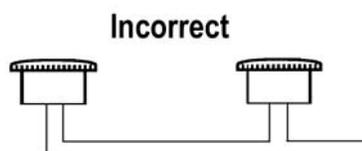
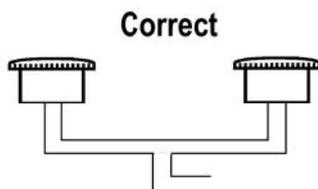


with dual drain requirements.

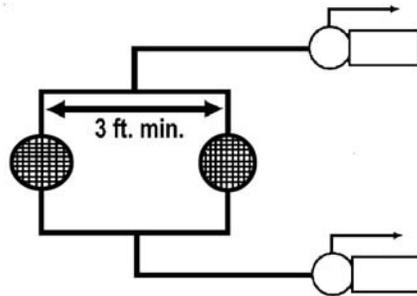
**Dual Outlets**



**Three Outlets**



- b. Each branch of a split suction shall terminate under its own suction outlet cover/grate. Except, suction plumbing from two different pumps may terminate under one suction outlet cover/grate if the combined flow rate of each suction pipe is less than the flow ratings of a single cover/grate.



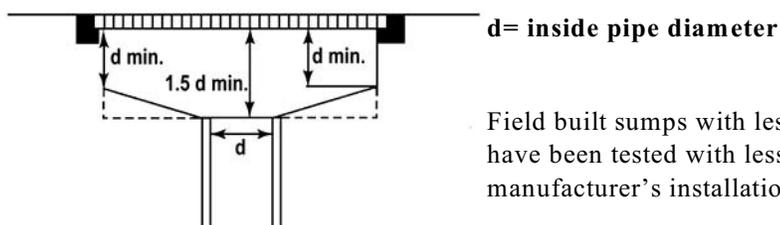
- c. In situations where room on the floor is limited, (e.g. in a spa), the suction outlets may be located less than 3 feet apart, as long as they are located on different design planes (e.g. one drain on the floor and one on the wall or two different walls) and as long as they are offset so a body cannot cover both suction outlet covers/grates. When a suction outlet is located on a wall, the bottom edge of the cover/grate shall be within 3 inches of the floor.
- d. The flow rating of each cover/grate shall be equal to or greater than the flow rating of the pump it is connected to. For example, if a pump is rated at 80 gpm at 60 feet of head, each cover/grate of the split suction must be rated at 80 gpm or greater. If 3 or more suction outlets are used, refer to the table below.

| Number of covers/grates per system | Minimum flow rating of each cover/grate % maximum system flow rate |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 2                                  | 100%   |
| 3                                  | 66.7%  |
| 4                                  | 50%  |
| 5                                  | 40%  |
| 6                                  | 33.3%  |

- e. All drains/grates will be required to meet the latest ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 performance standards. A list of covers/grates, that are approved can be obtained at the County of Los Angeles-Department of Public Health web site at:

[http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/ep\\_rw equip.pdf](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/ep_rw equip.pdf)

- f. If the suction outlet cover/grate is not part of the manufactured sump and is placed on a field-built sump, the sump must comply with the following dimensions.



Field built sumps with lesser dimensions will be allowed if the covers have been tested with lesser dimensions and specifically stated in the manufacturer's installation instructions.

- g. All skimmers shall be dual port design. Skimmers shall be vented to atmosphere through an opening in the lid. Skimmers shall be connected to either an equalizer line or a main drain. A main drain connected to a skimmer requires split main drains.
- h. Cover/grate and sump requirements for main drains shall also apply to all equalizer lines, except, the cover/grate is not required to be within 3 inches of the pool floor.
- i. Drain covers shall not be directly in line with diving boards.

**Please note, in regard to the Safety Vacuum Release System and automatic pump shut-off systems, once installed, EHD will not be responsible for determining whether the safety vacuum release system or automatic pump shut-off system has been properly installed per manufacturer's specifications; if it is functioning properly; if it has been calibrated; if it is being properly maintained; or if it will be tested and properly maintained in the future. This will be the responsibility of the property owner/operator or duly authorized representative.**