

For more information, please contact

Media Contacts:

Kirstin Pires
APSP Director of Communication
608-260-8290
kpires@apsp.org

September 16, 2009

Hot-Tub Friendly ASME Addendum Unanimously Approved

The ASME/ANSI 19.8 standard drafting committee voted unanimously to approve an addendum that will allow suction fittings used in self-contained hot tubs to be tested in pairs with regard to hair entrapment. As a result, these dual-outlet fittings will obtain a higher flow rating and be permitted in hot tubs with higher water velocity, thus avoiding costly redesign and retooling for many hot tub models.

The addendum was proposed by an APSP task force after manufacturers discovered late last year that the smaller fittings typically used in hot tubs were receiving far lower flow ratings under the new ASME19.8 cover standard cited in the Virginia Graeme Baker safety act. Those lower ratings would have forced many hot tub manufacturers to reduce water flow or install additional outlets.

“Realizing that the manufactured portable-spa segment has specialized design considerations, and that in the development of the ASME A112.19.8 Suction Fittings Standard not all of these factors were apparent, in December of 2008, a special spa task Force Chaired by Ray Mirzaei Vice President, QA & Technical Services, Waterway Plastics, was created to address these requirements,” said Leif Zars, chairman, ASME A112.19.8.

Dual-outlet testing was conducted with the assistance of NSF personnel and facilities and the addendum was developed and submitted for approval.

“With the finalization and acceptance of this Addenda to this Standard, the manufactured portable-spa industry now has approved guidelines to insure a greater degree of safety in their products,” said Zars.

-30-

About APSP

The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) is the world's largest international trade association representing the swimming pool, spa and hot tub

industry. APSP's mission is promoting consumer safety and enhancing the business success of its members. Members adhere to a code of business ethics and share a commitment to public health and safety in the use of pools, spas and hot tubs. APSP member companies include manufacturers, distributors, manufacturers' agents, designers, builders, installers, retailers, and service professionals. For more information visit www.APSP.org.