



Contact: Lisa S. Grepps
Director, Marketing & Communications
(703)838-0083 Ext. 179
Lgrepps@apsp.org

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APSP ENCOURAGES USE OF ANSI/APSP-7 ENTRAPMENT AVOIDANCE STANDARD AND FIELD CHECKLIST IN RESPONSE TO CPSC INQUIRY

(ALEXANDRIA, VA)—*The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) released the following statement today in response to the current inquiry being conducted by the CPSC on the compliance of pool and spa drain covers with the requirements of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGBA). As part of the inquiry, the CPSC held a public hearing on the issue on April 5, 2011.*

“The CPSC’s inquiry raises highly technical issues concerning the degree to which specific drain covers are a correct match for the flow rates of the water circulation systems to which the covers are attached.

“Drain cover manufacturers have engaged independent testing laboratories to test for VGBA compliance. The VGBA has specific testing requirements for drain covers using the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 drain cover Standard. At question is the interpretation of the Standard by three major independent testing laboratories—NSF, IAPMO and UL—on specific procedures used in rating these covers. The CPSC is requesting further verification of drain cover compliance with VGBA.

“APSP is not a party to the CPSC inquiry but remains at the forefront of public health and safety in its promotion of the use of pools, spas and hot tubs. As part of this commitment, APSP has been accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to be the nation’s developer of pool and spa standards and has developed the ANSI/APSP-7 Standard for Suction Entrapment Avoidance in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs, and Catch Basins. The design recommendations and construction practices in the Standard are based upon sound engineering principles, research, and field experience. The Standard has been referenced in the 2009 International Residential Code, the 2009 International Building Code, and has also been referenced in many state building codes.

“The Field Checklist in Appendix B of the ANSI/APSP-7 Standard can readily assist in the proper evaluation and verification that drain covers are matched correctly to maximum circulation system flow rates. The Field Checklist can also help identify important aspects of suction outlet safety, including fasteners, sumps, and drain spacing. The Standard and the Field Checklist are available at apsp.org.”

APSP is the world’s largest international trade association representing the swimming pool, spa, and hot tub industry. Its mission is to promote consumer safety, and enhance 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 about the APSP please visit apsp.org.

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