

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



Steve Levy  
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

HUMAYUN J. CHAUDHRY, DO., MS  
COMMISSIONER

March 23, 2009

Dear Swimming Pool Operator:

For your information, the Federal Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Pool and Spa Safety Act was signed December 19, 2007, with an effective date of December 19, 2008, and establishes mandatory Federal requirements for suction entrapment avoidance in public swimming pools and spas. The Pool and Spa Safety Act requires:

- Install drain covers that meet the ANSI/ASME A112.19.8–2007 standard on EVERY drain/grate. A list of cover manufacturers can be found at [www.cpsc.gov/whatsnew.html#pool](http://www.cpsc.gov/whatsnew.html#pool)
- Install an automatic shut-off system, gravity drainage system, Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS), suction-limiting vent system or disable the drain, if the pool operates off of a SINGLE main drain. Pools and spas with unblockable drains are exempt from this requirement. A list of SVRS manufacturers can be found at [www.cpsc.gov/whatsnew.html#pool](http://www.cpsc.gov/whatsnew.html#pool).
- Ensure that dual or multiple main drains are at least 3 feet apart.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is responsible for implementation and enforcement of this law. Individual states do not have enforcement responsibility.

Enclosed is a one-page “Guide to Compliance” poster that was prepared by the CPSC. The poster was designed to inform public pool and spa owners of the requirements of the new law. Although the poster includes a recommendation to disable main drains or build pools without main drains, this is not an option in New York State because main drains are required by Subpart 6-1 of the State Sanitary Code (SSC). **In addition, Subpart 6-1 of the SSC requires all proposed modifications to a regulated swimming pool be reviewed and approved by the local health department before the changes are made.** Also enclosed is a one page Application for - VGB Required Upgrades. This application can be used for installing main drain covers, suction line covers and safety vacuum release systems. All other modifications require a licensed professional engineer.

Very truly yours,

Christopher J. Lubicich, P.E.  
Associate Public Health Engineer



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

♦ OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL ♦ 15 HORSEBLOCK PLACE ♦ FARMINGVILLE NY 11738 ♦

Phone (631) 854-2517 Fax (631) 854-2505

# VIRGINIA GRAEME BAKER POOL & SPA SAFETY ACT



## CPSC STAFF'S GUIDE TO COMPLYING WITH THE LAW



**By December 19, 2008, ALL public pool owners/operators must:**

- Install drain covers that meet the ANSI/ASME A112.19.8–2007 standard on EVERY drain/grate. A list of cover manufacturers can be found at [www.cpsc.gov/whatsnew.html#pool](http://www.cpsc.gov/whatsnew.html#pool)
- Install an automatic shut-off system, gravity drainage system, Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS), suction-limiting vent system or disable the drain, if the pool operates off of a SINGLE main drain. Pools and spas with unblockable drains are exempt from this requirement. A list of SVRS manufacturers can be found at [www.cpsc.gov/whatsnew.html#pool](http://www.cpsc.gov/whatsnew.html#pool).
- Ensure that dual or multiple main drains are at least 3 feet apart.

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Pools And Spas Not Open On December 19, 2008 Are Not Required To Be In Compliance Until The Day The Pool Or Spa Is Re-opened!

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The new Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act requires all new drain and grate covers be certified to all applicable standards starting on November 12, 2008.

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CPSC staff recommends that to ELIMINATE and not just MITIGATE the drain entrapment hazard in pools and spas, pool owners should disable old drains or build new pools without any drains and use gutters, overflows and/or skimmers to provide water to the pump.

**NOTE: Main Drains are required in New York State.**

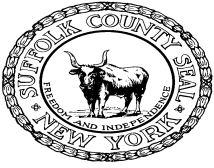
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**Have a question or concern about the Pool & Spa Safety Act?**

Send an e-mail to [info@cpsc.gov](mailto:info@cpsc.gov)

*This information was prepared by the CPSC staff; it has not been approved by, and does not necessarily represent the views of, the Commission.*





# SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

## APPLICATION FOR - VIRGINIA GRAEME BAKER ACT REQUIRED UPGRADES

Office of Pollution Control -15 Horseblock place - Farmingville, NY 11738

Facility Code					Type of Pool					
5	1				<input type="checkbox"/> Indoor	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor				
					<input type="checkbox"/> Main Pool	<input type="checkbox"/> Spa Pool	<input type="checkbox"/> Wading Pool	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		

Pool Facility Name			Physical Address			Community	State	Zip
Contact Name			Phone Number			Email Address		

A licensed engineer or architect is not required for initial application but may later be required by the Department

Engineer's Name			Mailing Address			Community	State	Zip
Phone Number			Fax Number			Email Address		

Pool Information - submit a separate form for each pool

Dimensions of Pool \_\_\_\_\_ft X \_\_\_\_\_ft      Minimum Depth \_\_\_\_\_ft      Maximum Depth \_\_\_\_\_ft

(For Non Rectangular Shaped Pool Provide Diagram)

Pool has Gutters       Pool has Skimmers       Number of Skimmers \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Main Drains In Pool \_\_\_\_\_      Dimensions of Drain Covers \_\_\_\_\_in X \_\_\_\_\_in      or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_in

Separation Distance Between Main Drains \_\_\_\_\_ft      Is this a Gravity Drain System?  Yes  No

Distance Between Suction Pipe and Drain Cover \_\_\_\_\_in      Diameter of Suction Pipes \_\_\_\_\_in

Pump Manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_      Model No. \_\_\_\_\_      Horse Power \_\_\_\_\_

Design Flow of System (if known) \_\_\_\_\_gpm      Flow Rate as Observed at System Flow Meter \_\_\_\_\_gpm

**ANSI/ASME A112.19.8-2007 Certified Main Drain Cover To Be Installed**

Manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_      Model Number \_\_\_\_\_

Actual Open Area of Drain Cover Listed in Manufacturers Specifications \_\_\_\_\_sq in

Distance Between Suction Pipe and Drain Cover Required by Manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_

Vacuum Line Cover Manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_      Model No. \_\_\_\_\_

Skimmer Equalizer Line Cover Manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_      Model No. \_\_\_\_\_

Safety Vacuum Release System Manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_      Model No. \_\_\_\_\_

**YOU MUST SUBMIT MANUFACTURERS SPECIFICATION SHEETS FOR ALL LISTED ITEMS**

**A certificate of electrical compliance must be submitted for all completed electrical work.**

This form can be used for installation of the above items only. Any physical changes to the piping, pool shell, main drain sumps, or filter system require a CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL OF PLANS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION OF A SWIMMING POOL(S) from the Department of Health Services before any renovations are made.

I Certify that all information supplied hereon is true to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pool Owners Signature (required)      Print Name      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Preparers Signature (If different than pool owner)      Print Name      Date

This area for Department use only

Calculated Flow Rate Through Main Drain Cover \_\_\_\_\_fps      Complies With State Sanitary Code Subpart 6.1      Yes       No

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_