



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

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Carvin DiGiovanni
Association of Pool & Spa Professionals
2111 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mr. DiGiovanni,

This is in response to your email of August 26, 2009 to Scott Wolfson in which you request guidance on whether the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB Act) applies to vacuum line (or vacuum connection) covers.

Section 1404(c)(1)(A)(i) of the VGB Act requires that public pools and spas in the United States be equipped with drain covers that comply with ASME/ANSI A112.19.8, *Suction Fittings for Use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs*. Section 1.1.5.2 of ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 provides "Vacuum connection covers shall be excluded from evaluation to this Standard." Thus, vacuum connection covers are not covered by the VGB Act. However, as you pointed out in your email, vacuum connection covers are subject to the requirements of two different standards: ANSI/APSP-7, *American National Standard for Suction Entrapment Avoidance in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs, and Catch Basins*; and IAPMO SPS 4, *Special use suction fitting for swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs (for suction side automatic swimming pool cleaners)*. The Commission is investigating the incident that occurred in Key Biscayne, Florida, wherein a three-year old girl's arm was entrapped in a condominium pool vacuum line, and is assessing whether a failure of the vacuum connection cover to comply with the relevant voluntary standards constituted a substantial product hazard.

Thank you for your inquiry. Please contact us if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl A. Falvey".
Cheryl A. Falvey