



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health

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February 21, 2014

POSITION STATEMENT:

PURSUANT TO: 15A NCAC 18A .2539 SUCTION HAZARD REDUCTION

SOURCE: Jim Hayes, Pools, Tattoos and State Institutions Program Supervisor

QUESTION / ISSUE: How are local health departments to verify that pool drains are replaced when they reach the end of their rated useful life?

DISCUSSION AND RATIONALE:

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act and rule 15A NCAC 18A .2539 require public swimming pools to maintain pool drains in compliance with ASME/ANSI Standard A112.19.8-2007 or its successor standard. The standard requires the drain manufacturer to provide a useful life rating for the cover/grate, beyond which the cover/grate is to be replaced with a new cover/grate. Cover/grate useful life ratings range from 3 to 15 years, depending on the product, with the vast majority of cover/grates rated for five years. New cover/grates were installed on all public swimming pools in North Carolina in 2009 and early 2010, making 2014 the last year of useful life for the majority of those cover/grates. Use of cover/grates that exceed their useful life is a violation of ASME/ANSI Standard A112.19.8-2007 and Rule 15A NCAC 18A .2539 and is reason for denial of an Operation permit.

RESPONSE / INTERPRETATION:

To verify that pool drain cover/grates are replaced at the end of their useful life rating it will be necessary for pool owners or operators to provide documentation of when the drains were replaced. Since there was a recall affecting many of the drains installed in 2010, some replacement drains are no longer available or have had their flow ratings changed. It is also likely some pools have changed pumps over the last five years, which could also affect selection of appropriate cover/grates to match the maximum pump system flow. For those reasons this department recommends local health departments require pool owners complete a Drain Safety Compliance Sheet to indicate any change of cover/grate and/or pump installed on the pool since the original compliance check in 2010.

REFERENCES:

ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 Suction Fittings for Use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs

NOTE: Position statements are policy documents to clarify how to interpret or enforce a law or rule. They are not enforceable on their own, but are intended to promote uniform interpretation and enforcement of the underlying law or rule.

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Pool Drain Safety Compliance Data

Name of Pool _____

Address _____

Pump System Flow

Pump Manufacturer _____ Model Number _____

Maximum Pump Flow (manufacturer's specifications) _____ gallons per minute

Maximum Pumping System Flow is reduced to _____ gpm based on:

Measured Total Dynamic Head loss of _____ feet;

Calculated Total Dynamic Head loss of _____ feet;

Magnetic flow meter reading of _____ gpm;

Automatic flow limiting valve factory set at _____ gpm

(Provide supporting evidence for flow reduction)

Drain Sump Measurements

Sump width: round _____ inches diameter; rectangle _____ inches X _____ inches

Sump minimum depth _____ inches Diameter of outlet pipe to pump _____ inches

Distance of top (inside) of outlet pipe from bottom of cover/grate _____ inches

Drain Cover/grate Data

Number of drains on same pumping system _____ Distance between drains (on centers) _____

Cover/grate manufacturer _____, model _____

Maximum flow rating of cover/grate _____ gpm (floor); _____ gpm (wall)

Date drain cover/grates installed: _____ Expiration date: _____

Number of operable skimmer equalizers _____

Equalizer fitting Manufacturer _____ model _____

Equalizer fitting maximum flow rating _____

Date equalizer cover/grates installed: _____ Expiration date _____

Full name of person providing this information _____

Signature _____ Date _____

For instructions please visit the Pool Drain Safety Compliance Website at:
<http://ehs.ncpublichealth.com/faf/pti/drainsafety.htm>