

What does the VGB Act mandate?

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB Act) was signed into federal law on December 19, 2007, with the support of the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP). **Please visit www.APSP.org/VGB for the latest information.**

Public pools and spas that are not in compliance by December 19, 2008, may not open for use until compliant.

The VGB Act contains three federally enforced mandates—each effective December 19, 2008:

1. All drain covers (public and residential) manufactured, imported, distributed, or offered into commerce must comply with the new ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 2007 standard.

Proof of compliance requires testing and certification by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory, except for “Field Fabricated Outlets” defined under Section 2.3.1 of the ASME standard. These specialized suction outlets may qualify for site-specific certification by a Registered Design Professional, as defined in Section 1.5 of the ASME standard.
2. All public pools and spas (new and existing) must be retrofitted with covers that meet the new ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 2007 standard, or qualified Field Fabricated Outlets may be certified by a Registered Design Professional, as stipulated in the ASME standard.
3. All public pools and spas that have a single drain other than an unblockable drain must employ one or more additional options.

This compliance guide does not address every public pool and spa configuration. For more thorough compliance guidance, including how to determine and address maximum system flow rates, follow the ANSI/APSP-7 Suction Entrapment Avoidance Standard.

For additional information, be sure to read the following. You can also consult an APSP member using the member locator at www.APSP.org.

- ANSI/APSP-7 Suction Entrapment Avoidance Standard. This standard meets or exceeds all the requirements of the VGB Act. To order, visit the APSP Store at www.APSP.org.
- ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 2007. To order, go to www.amse.org.
- APSP list of “Frequently Asked Questions” at www.APSP.org/VGB_FAQs.



2111 Eisenhower Avenue • Alexandria VA 22314
703.838.0083, ext 301 • memberservices@APSP.org
www.APSP.org

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Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act



APSP COMPLIANCE GUIDE

For public pool and spa owners
and operators, builders, and
service professionals



HOW do I know if my public pool and spa complies with the VGB Act?

Public pools and spas built before December 19, 2007, are not compliant unless they were built without submerged suction outlets, or the suction system has since been modified to comply. To help determine compliance, use the following steps:



Determine if your drain covers comply with the VGB Act, Section 1404(c)(1)(A)(i), by answering the following:

- ❶ Are the cover(s) marked with “VGB 2008,” “ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 2007,” or the swimmer logo*? Or have qualified Field Fabricated Outlets been certified by a Registered Design Professional? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- ❷ For single and dual outlet systems, is the flow rating for each cover equal to or greater than the Maximum System GPM? Or for systems with three or more covers per pump—assume one is completely blocked off and then ask—is the combined flow rating of all unblocked covers equal to or greater than the Maximum System GPM? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- ❸ Is the cover properly secured, according to the manufacturer’s instructions, to a manufactured sump or field-built sump design, and is the cover tested and certified by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL)? ☐ Yes ☐ No



If the answer to any of these questions is “No,” the pool does not comply.

Corrective Action:

- If the cover(s) are not qualified Field Fabricated Outlet(s), go to www.APSP.org/CoversandSVRS for a list of APSP-member manufacturers that offer compliant covers, or visit www.cpsc.gov. Ask the manufacturer if their covers include a flow rating greater than the Maximum System GPM and are certified by an NRTL for use on the existing sump.
- If the cover(s) are qualified Field Fabricated Outlet(s), you must consult a Registered Design Professional for certification. Qualified Field Fabricated Outlets are large enough that the 18 x 23-inch body blocking element will not cause differential pressure that could cause body entrapment, as defined by the procedures of the ASME standard. The Registered Design Professional will be responsible for certifying all requirements of the ASME standard, including but not limited to flow rating, cover strength, and sump design.



Determine if your back-up options comply with the VGB Act, Section 1404(c)(1)(A)(ii), by answering the following:

- ❶ If the pool has a multiple main-drain system (i.e., more than one suction outlet per pump), is the center-to-center distance between the two covers at least 36 inches? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If “Yes,” then no further corrective action is required.

If “No,” this is considered a single-drain system for purposes of complying with the VGB Act (see “Corrective Action” below for single-drain systems).

- ❷ If the pool has a single-suction outlet, is it unblockable? Determine by answering the following:
 - A. Does the sump exceed 18 x 23 inches?
☐ Yes ☐ No
 - B. Does the sump have an open-area diagonal that exceeds 29 inches?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If the answers to 2(A) and 2(B) are “Yes,” then no further corrective action is required.

If the answer to 2(A) OR 2(B) is “No,” this is considered a single-drain system for purposes of complying with the VGB Act (see “Corrective Action” below for single-drain systems).

Corrective Action: To get single-drain systems to comply, you must use one of the following options:

- A. Consider drain disablement or reversal of the flow.
- B. Install additional properly spaced outlet(s) with compliant cover(s).
- C. Install safety vacuum release system(s) (SVRS)*.
- D. Install a gravity drainage system.
- E. Install a suction-limiting vent system.
- F. Install an automatic pump shut-off system*.

*For a list of APSP member companies that manufacture SVRS products or automatic pump shut-off systems, go to www.APSP.org/CoversandSVRS.

Visit www.APSP.org/VGB for the latest information.