

2008 Oregon Residential Specialty Code Mid-Cycle Code Amendment

Appendix G – Drain Covers for Pools and Spas

Permanent Rule Adoption *Effective Date: October 1, 2009*

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*Text formatting; ~~strike through~~ denotes text that has been deleted,
Underline/bold denotes text that has been added.*

BACKGROUND:

On December 19, 2007, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, named after the daughter of Nancy Baker and the granddaughter of former Secretary of State James Baker, was signed into law. Graeme Baker died in June 2002 after the suction from a spa drain entrapped her under the water.

There is an annual average of 283 drowning deaths (2003-2005) and 2,700 emergency room-treated submersion injuries (2005-2007) involving children younger than 5 in pools and spas. In addition, from 1997-2007, there were 74 reported incidents associated with suction entrapment, including 9 deaths and 63 injuries. The new law is aimed at reducing these deaths and injuries by making pools safer, securing the environment around them, and educating consumers and industry on pool safety.

The Act specifies that on or after December 19, 2008, all swimming pool and spa drain covers available for purchase in the United States must meet specific performance requirements. Additionally, public swimming pools, wading pools, spas and hot tubs must meet requirements for installation of compliant drain covers. New drain covers which meet the current standard are now beginning to make their way into the marketplace. Additionally, in certain instances, public pools and spas must have additional devices or systems designed to prevent suction entrapment.

In Oregon, public pools are regulated by the Department of Human Services, Health Division. However, private pools accessory to one and two-family dwellings are regulated by the Oregon Residential Specialty Code.

This mid-cycle amendment is based on the **2009 International Residential Code (IRC)** and adopts **ANSI/APSP-7-06 Standard for Suction Entrapment avoidance in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs and Catch Basins**. Installations in accordance with this standard are deemed to comply with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act.

These items have been prepared as insert pages for the 2008 ORSC. Pages are formatted so that when inserted, the amendments will face the page containing the existing code language.

SECTION AG106
ENTRAPMENT PROTECTION FOR SWIMMING
POOL AND SPA SUCTION OUTLETS

AG106.1 General. Suction outlets shall be designed and installed in accordance with ANSI/APSP-7.

SECTION ~~AG406~~ 107
ABBREVIATIONS

AG106 7.1 General.

APSP—Association of Pool and Spa Professionals

Editorial note: Remainder of AG 107.1 remains unchanged.

SECTION ~~AG407~~ 108
STANDARDS

AG107 8.1 General.

ANSI/APSP

ANSI/APSP-7-06 Standard for Suction Entrapment avoidance in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs and Catch Basins AG106.1

Editorial note: Remainder of AG 108.1 remains unchanged.