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TO: Property & Liability Members
FROM: Christina M. Stark – Loss Control Specialist
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SUBJECT: * HEADS UP *
New Standards for Public Swimming Pools and Spas

Whether you are a school district that owns or operates a swimming pool facility, or a district that will be using a swimming pool facility, please consider carefully the dangers posed by water events and the importance of ensuring student and public safety.

On December 19, 2008 the following standards became effective through the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act.

“For public swimming pools and spas, the Act requires that each pool and spa be equipped with anti-entrapment devices or systems that comply with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers/American National Standards Institute (ASME/ANSI) A112.19.8-2007 standard, or any successor standard. The Act further requires that public swimming pools and spas with a single main drain other than an unblockable drain be equipped, at a minimum, with one or more of the following devices or systems designed to prevent entrapment by pool or spa drains: 1) a safety vacuum release system, 2) a suction-limiting vent system, 3) a gravity drainage system, 4) an automatic pump shut-off system, 5) a drain disablement device or system, and/or 6) any other system determined by the Consumer Product safety Commission (CPSC) to be equally effective as, or better than these systems at preventing or eliminating the risk or injury or death associated with pool drainage systems.

Each public swimming pool and spa, both old and new, must be equipped with anti-entrapment drain covers that meet the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 standard. Furthermore, each public swimming pool and spa with a single main drain other than an unblockable drain must also be equipped with a device or system designed to prevent entrapment as described.” – California Department of Public Health

Pools and spas not open on December 19, 2008 are not required to be in compliance with this Act until the day the pool or spa is re-opened.

Recently the CPSC staff prepared a detailed interpretation of the Act. A copy of the interpretation is available at <http://www.cpsc.gov/BUSINFO/vgb/vgpsa.pdf> .

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 579-7535.