



IAAPA

**International
Association of
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and Attractions**

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2010 EVENTS

IAAPA Attractions Expo

November 15-19
Orlando, Florida, USA

2011 EVENTS

Asian Attractions Expo

21-24 June
Singapore

Commissioner Robert Adler
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

October 20, 2010

Dear Commissioner Adler:

On behalf of the waterpark industry, I would like to thank you for taking the time to discuss the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act with IAAPA and WWA representatives last week.

As a follow-up to our conversation we would like to clarify certain points:

- Our guests' safety is our top priority and the waterpark industry supports the intent of VGB Act.
- The waterpark industry currently employs many safe anti-entrapment features and practices such as the use of larger, unblockable drains as the industry avoids direct, single suction drain systems.
- In order to be compliant with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act and the ASME A112.19.8 standard, pool drain covers must have a pre-determined lifetime. In other words, **by law, drain covers must be removable**. Despite this, the likelihood of a grate being removed other than for maintenance or replacement is infinitesimally low.
 - Compliant grates are bolted into the pool bottom using stainless steel screws, which require special tools for removal.
 - In addition, large grates are heavy, often requiring mechanical equipment to lift, making it extremely unlikely that someone would tamper with or unintentionally remove the grate.
 - Complaint drain covers have been *certified by a licensed professional engineer* to meet structural standards listed in ASME A112.19.8. These structural standards are in place to ensure the grate will not break with normal use over its intended life cycle including exposure to chemicals and sunlight.
- The waterpark industry agrees that Safety Vacuum Release Systems (SVRS) are appropriate in pools with single suction drains. In other waterpark applications though, SVRS are inappropriate and would not improve safety.
- Furthermore, CPSC's regulatory authority should not be used on behalf of one company's patented product. The Pool Safety Council

was created by the manufacturer of SVRS mechanisms. The lobbying by this non-profit organization for the required installation of its parent company's product is inappropriate.

The VGB Act has certainly raised the bar in entrapment drowning prevention in public pools in the United States. However, private pools are outside the scope of the law and still pose a widespread risk to swimmers. Many of these pools have direct, single suction drain systems. It is unlikely these pools have lifeguards or undergo routine safety inspections. The CPSC should focus its resources on educating private pool owners on the dangers of unguarded pools with single main drains, instead of imposing additional burdensome regulations on a safe industry.

I would be more than happy to provide additional information or answer any questions you, your staff, or the Commission have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Davis
SVP, Government Relations

Cc: Jana Fong-Swamidoss