

Making sense of regulation

By Brian Gangelhoff, A Pool's Best Friend, Inc.

I have had the opportunity to travel out of Florida to many less regulated states and interact with other pool professionals. It is disheartening to see the disconnect and misunderstanding of regulations that will certainly lead to liability and bad press for the industry. Federal, state, local, health department and industry guidelines all have something to say about how we build and maintain swimming pools. How do we as pool professionals make sense of all the different regulatory input?

While all regulatory groups have an opinion about certain things, there seems to me to be a very distinct proprietary importance without regard to overall construction and operation. Some examples are the Consumer Product Safety Commission - VGB suction entrapment; Dept. of Justice - American with Disabilities Act for commercial pool access; Centers for Disease Control (CDC) - water quality and disease transmission; State Health Dept. - design, safety and operation; Building Departments – construction; and Association of Pool and Spa Professionals - industry standards, just to name a few. It is a bit overwhelming when you think of all we must meld together just to complete a project as well as the ongoing maintenance. Hopefully the CDC with the model aquatic health code will bring some uniformity to the industry nationwide.

In the meantime, we thank the FSPA government relations program for helping member builders, service professionals, retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers in Florida make sense of all this regulation. I have had the opportunity to participate in FSPA Legislative Days for several years and see how it all works. It takes all of our input to support and guide the FSPA government relations program.