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Technical Information and Protocol for Federal Pool and Spa Safety Act Retrofits

For all public pools and spas: Our responsibility is to ensure compliance with Florida rules.

- A simple main drain grate /cover replacement must be done either by a Commercial Pool/Spa Contractor or a Swimming Pool/Spa Servicing Contractor, since both are licensed under Chapter 489, F.S.
- For complex retrofits, a DOH modification permit with professional engineering and installation by a Florida licensed contractor is required.
- New pool/spa plans received for approval after December 19, 2008 must be compliant with Florida's rule. Grates/covers, after the above date, are required to be certified to the new federal standard as enforced by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. We do not have enforcement jurisdiction but it may be in our best interest to check this and do a courtesy alert if not in compliance with the federal standard. To be in compliance with the federal Act, each drain grate/cover replaced must be certified as meeting the new 2007 ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 standard.
- The CPSC has posted a list of all approved drain cover manufacturers on their webpage. DOH will verify the flow capacity and will list the devices that meet the State rule and federal Act on the DOH swimming pool web page based on what is known at the time. If a grate/cover is to be used that may not appear on the DOH list, yet a contractor or professional engineer indicates that it may meet State rule, the calculations should be submitted to the Regional engineer to verify.
- On the replacement grate/cover, it is critical for the pools/spas with **gravity** drains to have an open area of at least 22 square inches for a 100 GPM filtration/ therapy jet system, 43 sq. inches for a 200 GPM flow system, or 64 sq. inches for a 300 GPM flow system. (Required open area = permitted flow rate divided by 4.7 so that water velocity is at/below 1.5 feet per second (fps)) (The open area of the grate/cover is the water flow space between the plastic or metal cross beams.)

Action: Simple Grate/ Cover Replacement:

1. To be sure that the grate/drain cover is in compliance with Florida rule, the contractor or owner must submit a contractor-signed statement to the CHD or regional engineer that they have replaced the existing grate/cover with a ASME/ANSI certified grate/cover that meets Florida's pool rule, and they have installed it as specified by the manufacturer.
2. The contractor or owner shall also provide the name of the manufacturer and the model number of the grate/cover in the statement.
 - For **gravity** drainage pools/spas, the CHD should check the DOH webpage for devices with approval of open area and velocity.
 - For **direct suction** pools/spas, the CHD should check the DOH webpage for approved devices and also verify that the suction flow rating achieves the pool's engineered design flow and meets Florida rule for velocity.
3. If a grate/cover has been replaced to meet the federal Act and we have verified that it meets Florida's rule, an acknowledgement letter shall be issued to the owner that says it meets the state rule. (Attached is an example format.)

4. For **gravity** drainage pools, if the grate/cover installed is not DOH web posted as compliant with the Florida rule, or otherwise verified by a Regional engineer, a pool inspection form (DH 920) should be completed by the CHD inspector as unsatisfactory and require a pool closure until corrected.
For **direct suction** pools, if the grate/cover's flow rating is less than the approved pool design flow, the bathing load must be reassessed by a professional engineer and the DOH inspection form shall require this be completed within 3 months.
5. If the grate/cover model installed has no certification under the ASME/ANSI standard, do not use an inspection form since this is **not** a Florida code violation, and no acknowledgement letter shall be issued. Instead, a letter stating the grate/ cover does not meet the ASME/ANSI standard could be issued to the owner as a courtesy alert of noncompliance with the federal Act.

Action: Complex Grate/Cover Retrofit or Field Certification:

Where the simple replacement of a new drain grate/ cover cannot be achieved, the pool owner shall apply for a modification permit to the CHD or regional engineering office on normal application forms with engineering proposal documents.

Field certification by a professional engineer is allowed in the ASME/ANSI standard as well. The owner should be advised to consult a Florida licensed professional engineer should they be interested in pursuing this option.

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