



Pat Quinn, Governor  
Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • [www.idph.state.il.us](http://www.idph.state.il.us)

May 28, 2009

Re: Adoption of emergency amendments to Illinois Swimming Pool and Bathing Beach Code

Dear Swimming Facility Owner/Operator:

On May 18, 2009, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) adopted emergency amendments to the Illinois Swimming Pool and Bathing Beach Code (hereafter, Code). The emergency rules were necessitated by the implementation of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB Act). It should be noted that IDPH has not adopted the VGB Act as part of the Code. The emergency amendments require, among other things, all pools, spas and therapy pools to ensure that the main drains, vacuum outlets, water slide intakes and other submerged outlets are compliant with the ASME/ANSI standard for submerged suction outlets. Existing facilities are not exempted and must make changes to comply with the new rules. As an example, the rules require the equalizer lines to be connected to the main drain line or be permanently disabled. Additional standards were adopted to ensure that safety devices such as safety vacuum release devices, if required, be installed correctly and function properly. Please note that the installation of a safety vacuum release system, safety vent pipe or field fabricated suction outlet requires a construction permit to be issued prior to implementing the changes. All owners and operators are encouraged to contact a licensed engineer, familiar with aquatic design, to evaluate whether they comply with the new rules. A full text copy of the Code can be found at [http://www.idph.state.il.us/rulesregs/2009\\_Rules/Adopted/77\\_IAC\\_820\\_5-19.pdf](http://www.idph.state.il.us/rulesregs/2009_Rules/Adopted/77_IAC_820_5-19.pdf)

It is the responsibility of the licensee to ensure that each facility complies with state and federal law and any associated regulations. Permits are required to be obtained prior to any alteration of a licensed facility. Safety covers may be changed as a maintenance item provided they are an exact fit replacement. Those requiring a new fastening system or modification to the sump require a permit.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of my staff by calling 217/782-5830, (for the hearing impaired only TTY# 800-547-0466).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin T. DeWitt". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Justin DeWitt, P.E.  
Chief of General Engineering

***Improving public health, one community at a time***

*printed on recycled paper*