



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ♦ DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
RECREATIONAL WATERS PROGRAM  
5050 Commerce Drive, Baldwin Park, CA 91706 – (626) 430-5360



**BULLETIN**  
(Updated October 11, 2009)

**TO: ALL OWNERS/OPERATORS OF PUBLIC POOLS, SPAS AND WADING POOLS**

**SUBJECT: COMPLIANCE WITH CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE,  
SECTION 116064.2 (FEDERAL VIRGINIA GRAEME BAKER ACT)**

**This law applies to all public pools, spas and wading pools. It applies to those pools located at apartments, condominiums, townhouses, hotels, motels, schools, health clubs, mobile home parks, medical facilities, and includes municipal, resort and community pools.**

On October 11, 2009, Assembly Bill 1020 was signed into California State law. This bill adds Section 116064.2 to the California Health and Safety Code. This new section incorporates provisions of the federal Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Act into California State law and is intended to prevent suction drain entrapments and drownings.

The new law requires that all public pools be retrofitted with approved drain covers manufactured after December 19, 2008. In addition, every suction drain on a pool must have a split (dual) drain; be equipped with a safety vacuum release system; or an automatic pump shut-off system must be provided. To see a copy of Assembly Bill 1020 in its entirety, please visit the website at: [http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/ep\\_rw\\_ab1020.pdf](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/ep_rw_ab1020.pdf)

**By July 1, 2010**, owners of all public swimming pools and spas, **except** those listed below, must submit a “Certification of Compliance” form to Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health, Environmental Health (the Department), verifying that their pool(s) meet all provisions of the new State law.

**Exemptions from the new state law include:**

- All pools built after December 19, 2008, are exempt from these requirements as they have already been approved by the Department to comply with the new law.
- All pools that have already been retrofitted to meet the new State law are exempt from these requirements. “Already retrofitted” means plans were submitted to the Department and either a final inspection was made by our staff or a “Certification of Compliance” form was filed with the Department.

Prior to commencing any work on a pool such as changing a drain cover or modifying (splitting) a drain, a contractor is required to submit plans to the Department for approval. Once all work has been completed, the owner and contractor must fill out the “Certification of Compliance” form and submit the original to the Department. A copy of a “Certification of Compliance” form will be included when plans are approved and returned to the contractor. Additional information may be found on our website at: [http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/ep\\_rw\\_vgb.pdf](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/ep_rw_vgb.pdf)

All pools not complying with the above requirements by July 1, 2010 are subject to closure by this Department. If you have any questions, you can call the Recreational Waters Program at **(626) 430-5360** Monday thru Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.