



## **NESPA TILED SPAS**

*What is the Virginia Graeme Baker law?*

The new VGB Federal law came in effect Dec. 19, 2008.

The most important requirements to the law that are relevant to Nespa Tiled Spas:

**Drain Covers:** ...each public pool and spa in the United States shall be equipped with anti-entrapment devices or systems that comply with the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 performance standard, or any successor standard...

**Staff interpretation:** All public pools and spas must have ASME/ANSI A112.19.81 compliant Drain Covers on or after December 19, 2008. The basic requirements of the ASME/ANSI standard are:

- Cover material must be tested for structural integrity
- Cover must be tested for body entrapment and hair entrapment/entanglement
- Cover must display a flow value in gallons per minute (gpm) that indicates the maximum flow rate for which the cover has been approved

**Main Drain:** The term “main drain” means a submerged suction outlet typically located at the bottom of a pool or spa to conduct water to re-circulating and booster pumps.

A simple explanation of the law as it applies to most Nespa Spas sold in the last 10 years requires the use of new safety drain covers.

VGB is a federal law that was signed into law Dec. 19th, 2008 by President Bush. Unfortunately the interpretation by the enforcing agent CPSC took months to develop.

Drain cover manufacturers had to create new designs and test these new products. This test procedure takes months with the new testing criteria procedures. Delays occur because there are a limited amount of testing facilities and hundreds of products to be tested. Once a cover is approved, a mold will have to be made for a new cover to be extruded. This cover production is a complicated process with hundreds of older covers styles to be re-designed to meet the new law.

Building and Health department officials are still trying to comprehend the law as it relates to their current state and local codes. They are developing policies of VGB guidelines, responsibility for inspections and alternate methods of compliance if suction covers are not available.

*When will new approved covers be available?*

**With VGB law implementation many of the manufacturers still have their product in testing or production.**

**We are being told January or February depending on the demand for their fittings.**

*Is there a replacement suction cover for my spa?*

**A previously limited production suction cover may take months to be redesigned and built. In some cases it will not be financially feasible to replace existing spa covers. We are on a wait and see basis.**

*New VGB Cover status:*

**This changes weekly depending on type of cover and back orders.**

**We have requested 11 different new VGB replacement covers for past spa installations. All these covers have been back ordered.**

**We will try to expedite delivery of covers as soon as they are available.**

**Please contact us with a description of your spa and its' drain cover.  
Digital pictures of your suctions would be a great help.**

**Email information to [jim@tiledspas.com](mailto:jim@tiledspas.com) or call Jim Milligan @530 534 9910**

**All new Nespa spas both residential and commercial are VGB compliant.  
Most residential spas built as of August 2008 are VGB compliant.**

**2800 Richter Ave. Suite C, Oroville, CA 95965 Voice: (530)534-9910 Fax: (530)534-9915  
Email: [sales@tiledspas.com](mailto:sales@tiledspas.com) Website: [www.tiledspas.com](http://www.tiledspas.com)**