

FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION

INFORMATIONAL NOTICE ON POOL & SPA DRAIN SAFETY

December 4, 2001

At the recommendation of the Pool and Spa Drain Safety Subcommittee, the Florida Building Commission developed information on pool entrapment protection criteria to aid building officials in deciding whether a design or system is compliant with **section 424.2.6.6** of the **Florida Building Code**. *No standard presently exists for such devices.*

Background:

The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) IGC 160-2001a, "Interim Guide Criteria for Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS) Devices for Swimming Pool Suction Fittings and Drains", is the only guideline at this time for safety vacuum release systems. The Consumer Product Safety Commission, which publishes a document entitled "Guidelines for Entrapment Hazards: Making Pools and Spas Safer" (Pub. No. 363, 009801) asked ASTM to develop a standard for vacuum release systems. ASTM standard F15.51, "Standard Provisional Specification for Safety Vacuum Release Systems (SVRS) for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs", is still a draft. Also, further refinements in code language are needed to clarify the intent of section 424.2.6.6, Florida Building Code.

Recommendations of the Commission:

1. Vent piping designed by a Florida-registered engineer that relieves the vacuum to less than 4.5" of mercury in 3 seconds or less may be permitted. Such vent piping shall be designed and installed in such a manner that the air inlet port(s) cannot be defeated by reasonably anticipated conditions.
1. Vacuum relief systems designed to and meeting the performance levels set out in IAPMO IGC 160-2001a may be permitted.
1. Anti-vortex cover(s) serving as anti-entrapment devices may meet ANSI/ASME A112.19.8M (1987).
1. Cleaner suction inlets (for the temporary connection of automatic or manual pool cleaning devices) should be protected by a permanently installed self-closing flapper valve.

Clarification:

Code language in section 424.2.6.6 uses the term "suction inlet". The Plumbing Technical Advisory Committee to the Florida Building Commission feels this language should be clarified. In effect, the pump "suction inlets" are the pool outlets.