



County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FOOD AND HOUSING DIVISION

PLAN CHECK AND CONSTRUCTION UNIT

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WADING POOL ADVISORY NOTICE

This letter is to inform you of the amendment to the California Health & Safety Code (CH&SC) requiring that public wading pools have two circulation drains per pump. The new law states in part "by January 1, 2000, every public wading pool, regardless of original construction, shall be retrofitted to comply with this section."

Section 116064 of the California Health & Safety Code (enclosed as Attachment A "Excerpt from the CH&SC") requires public wading pools to have a double bottom drain system. The drains must be separated by at least three (3) feet. Piping must be connected as a "T" connection (enclosed as Attachment B "Double Main Drain Schematic"). In the event one the drains becomes covered, the other uncovered drain will draw water, allowing the "breaking of suction" on the covered drain.

While the section drawing shows piping at the bottom of the main drain cavity, piping may be placed in side wall of cavity provided there is a minimum two (2) inch clearance between the upper edge of the suction pipe opening and the bottom of the main drain grate.

The velocity of the water flowing across the main drain rate should not exceed 2.0 feet per second for flat main drain covers and 6 feet per second for anti-vortex type drain covers.

Our records indicate that your public wading pool is not in compliance. Any public wading pool that does not comply with Section 116064 of CH&SC shall be retrofitted by March 1, 2000. The installation must be completed under permit and inspected by the Department of Environmental Health, Plan Check and Construction Unit. The local building inspection agency may also require a permit. The following steps are recommended to begin the process of bringing your wading pool up to code:

- a. Provide an illustration of your wading pool including the double main drain schematic. Include the size (make, model, and horsepower) of the existing pump and the make and model of the main drains to be installed.
- b. A preliminary inspection shall be conducted to view the existing plumbing.
- c. A final inspection shall be conducted at the conclusion of all work prior to placing the pool back in use.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please notify Steve Spence at (619) 338-2064. To schedule a final inspection, please call (619) 338-2364.

"Environmental and public health through leadership, partnership and science"

EXCERPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE

116060. Any public swimming pool constructed, operated, or maintained contrary to the provisions of this article is a public nuisance, dangerous to health.

116063. Any nuisance maintained in violation of this article may be abated or enjoined in an action brought by a local health officer, or the department or it may be summarily abated in the manner provided by law for the summary abatement of other public nuisances dangerous to health.

116064. (a) As used in this section the following words have the following meanings:

(1) (A) "Public wading pool" means a pool that meets all of the following criteria:

(i) It has a maximum water depth not exceeding 18 inches.

(ii) It is a pool other than a pool that is located on the premises of a one-unit or two-unit residence, intended solely for the use of the residents or guests.

(B) "Public wading pool" includes, but is not limited to, a pool owned or operated by private persons or agencies, or by state or local governmental agencies.

(C) "Public wading pool" includes, but is not limited to, a pool located in an apartment house, hotel, or similar setting, that is intended for the use of residents or guests.

(2) "Alteration" means any of the following:

(A) To change, modify, or rearrange the structural parts or the design.

(B) To enlarge.

(C) To move the location of.

(D) To install a new water circulation system.

(E) To make any repairs costing fifty dollars (\$50) or more to an existing circulation system.

(b) A public wading pool shall have at least two circulation drains per pump that are hydraulically balanced and symmetrically plumbed through one or more "T" fittings, and are separated by a distance of at least three feet in any dimension between the drains.

(c) All public wading pool main drain suction outlets that are under 12 inches across shall be covered with antivortex grates or similar protective devices. All main drain suction outlets shall be covered with grates or antivortex plates that cannot be removed except with the use of tools. Slots or openings in the grates or similar protective devices shall be of a shape, area, and arrangement that would prevent physical entrapment and would not pose any suction hazard to bathers.

(d) (1) The State Department of Health Services may adopt regulations pursuant to this section.

(2) The regulations may include, but not be limited to, standards permitting the use of alternative devices or safeguards, or incorporating new technologies, that produce, at a minimum, equivalent protection against entrapment and suction hazard, whenever these devices, safeguards, or technologies become available to the public.

(3) Regulations adopted pursuant to this section constitute building standards and shall be forwarded pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 11343 of the Government Code to the California Building Standards Commission for approval as set forth in Section 18907 of the Health and Safety Code.

(e) The California Building Standards Commission shall approve the building standards as set forth

in this section and publish them in the California Building Standards Code by November 1, 1999.

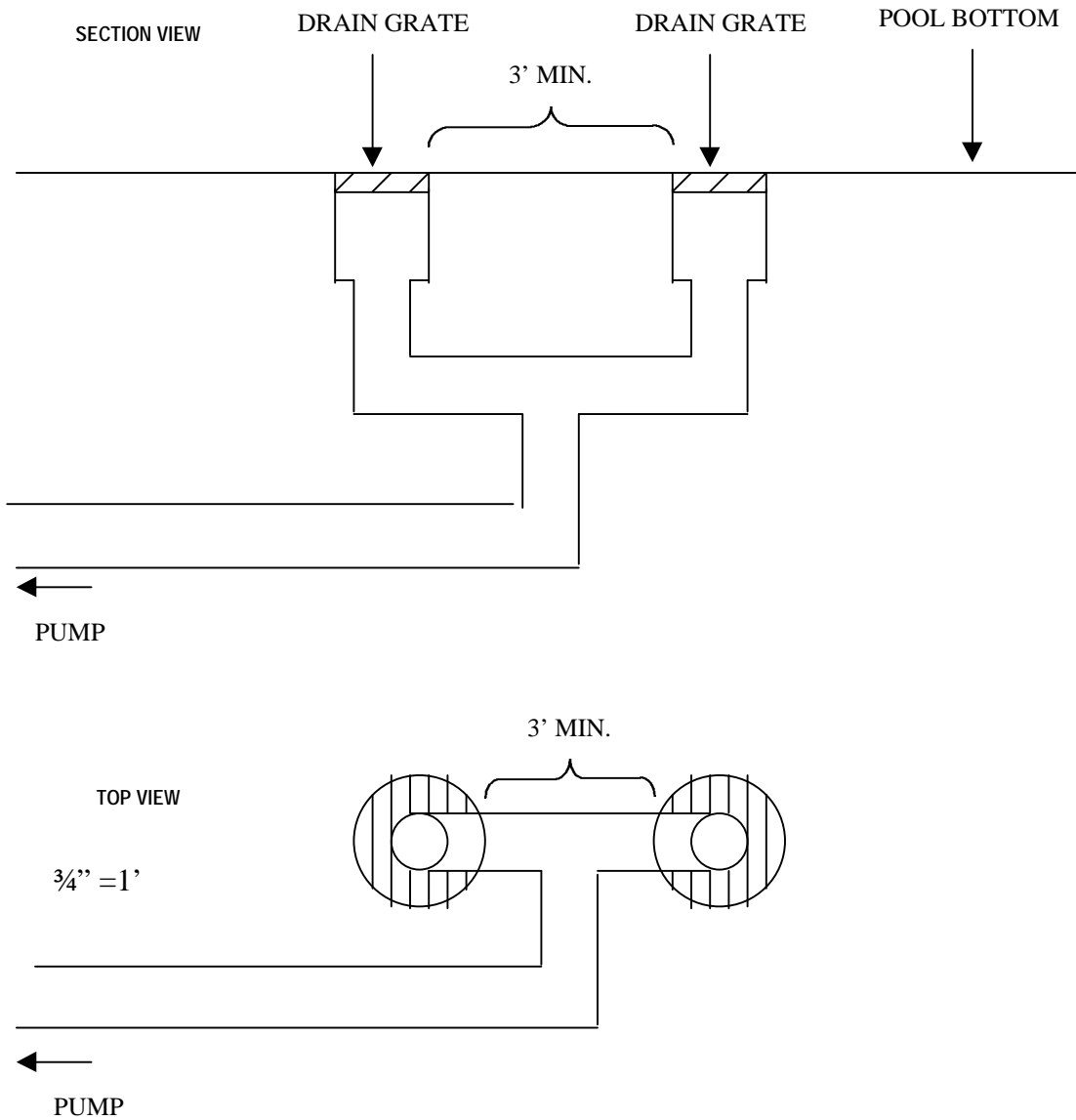
The commission shall publish the text of this section in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, Part 2, Chapter 31B, requirements for public swimming pools, with the following note: "NOTE: These building standards are in statute but have not been adopted through the regulatory process." Enforcement of the standards set forth in this section does not depend upon adoption of regulations, therefore, enforcement agencies shall enforce the standards pursuant to the timeline set forth in this section prior to adoption of related regulations.

- (f) The maximum velocity in the pump suction hydraulic system shall not exceed six feet per second when 100 percent of the pump's flow comes from the main drain system and any main drain suction fitting in the system is completely blocked.
- (g) On and after January 1, 1998, all newly constructed public wading pools shall be constructed in compliance with this section.
- (h) Commencing January 1, 1998, whenever a construction permit is issued for alteration of an existing public wading pool, it shall be retrofitted so as to be in compliance with this section.
- (i) By January 1, 2000, every public wading pool, regardless of the date of original construction, shall be retrofitted to comply with this section.

116065. Every person who violates any provision of this article, building standards published in the State Building Standards Code relating to swimming pools, or the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the provisions of this article, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.

116068. Each day that a violation of this article continues is a separate offense.

DOUBLE MAIN DRAIN SCHEMATIC



Section 116064 of the Health and Safety Code requires wading type pools to have a double bottom drain system. The drains must be separated by at least three (3) feet. Pipe openings must be connected by a “T” connection, as shown above. In the event one of the drains becomes covered, the other drain will draw water, allowing the “breaking of suction” on the covered drain.

While the section drawing shows pipe openings at the bottom of the drain cavity, pipe openings may be placed in side wall of cavity provided there is a minimum of two (2) inch clearance between the upper edge of the suction pipe opening and the bottom of the main drain grate. The velocity of the water flowing across the main drain grate should not exceed two (2) feet per second.