

# Aquatic Facility Rules Fact Sheet #5

*What you should know about the Code*

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OAR 333-060-1000,  
CHAPTER 4.7.1.6.2

## **4.7.1.6.2 Number and Location**

POOLS must have at least two outlets. Except for:  
5) Facilities licensed with a single main drain and in continuous operation prior to the adoption of this code, shall be equipped with either a secondary anti-entrapment device or a single unblockable drain, in compliance with the requirements of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGBA). These upgrades must be completed within three years from the adoption of this code to ensure compliance with federal pool safety standards.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH REASONS:**

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGBA) is named in honor of Virginia Graeme Baker, a seven-year-old girl who tragically drowned after becoming trapped underwater by the powerful suction of a hot tub drain. This incident highlighted the dangers of suction entrapment associated with a single main drain.

In response to this tragedy, Congress enacted the VGBA, effective on December 19, 2008. It requires all public pools and spas to install anti-entrapment drain covers that meet specific safety standards and additional layers of protection such as safety vacuum release systems (SVRS), automatic pump shut-off systems, or gravity drainage systems, in some cases.

## Single Main Drains

Single main drains pose a significant risk of suction entrapment, where swimmers can get caught by the drain's powerful suction. These accidents can cause serious harm or fatalities, particularly to children or individuals with disabilities. To reduce this risk, aquatic venues must update their main drain system to comply with federal regulations and protect their patrons.

Main drains are also called Suction Outlet Fitting Assemblies (SOFAs). The VGBA defines a SOFA as a component that includes the cover, grate, and other parts that attach the cover to the pool's surface and suction system.

**If your aquatic venue has a single main drain, you will need to complete the plan review process and move to one of options below to comply with the rules by 4/1/28:**

### **1) Safety vacuum release system**

This stops the pump, reverses circulation flow, or provides vacuum release at the suction outlet when a blockage is detected. It must be tested by an independent third party and conform to ASME/ANSI standard A112.19.17 or ASTM standard F2387.

### **2) Automatic pump shut-off system**

Automatically turns off the pump when a blockage is detected. There are no ASME/ANSI/ASTM standards for this type of system.

### **3) Suction-limiting vent system**

Commonly designed as a pipe vented to the outdoors connected to the suction pipe between the pool and the pump. When a blockage occurs, air from the vent pipe replaces the water in the suction pipe and breaks the suction.

### **4) Unblockable Drain Cover**

Installation of a single unblockable drain cover designed so that it cannot be entirely covered by a human body, as defined in the VGBA and conforms to APSP-16 2107 standards.

### **5) Gravity drainage system**

The pool's main drain uses a collector tank and is not directly connected to the pump, reducing the risk of suction entrapment.

### **6) Drain disablement**

The current accepted method is to physically cut and remove the drain line leading to the pump, ensuring it cannot create suction or be reconnected.

### **7) Converting a single main drain system to a multiple drain system**

With multiple drains connected to the same suction line, water is pulled evenly from all drains reducing suction at a single point. Drains must be spaced a minimum 3 feet apart (measured center-to-center) and be hydraulically balanced to ensure equal flow.

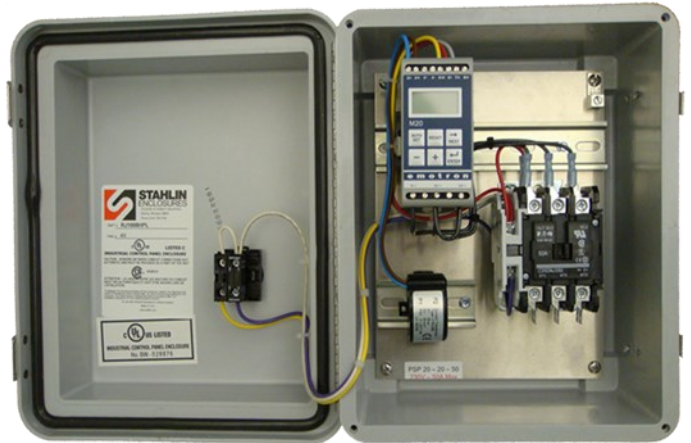


## REMEMBER:

- Updates must be approved and completed by April 1, 2028
- All changes must be reviewed by OHA or the county conducting plan reviews
- All systems must be regularly tested and maintained per manufacturer's requirements to reduce the risk of entrapment

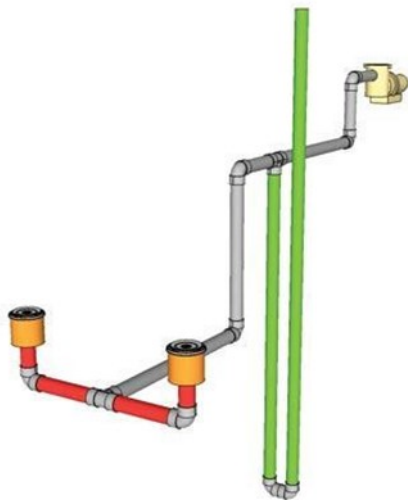


**Option 1 Example:**  
**Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS)**



**Option 2 Example:**  
**Automatic shut off system**

A tamper –resistant cover must be provided to ensure the piping is not easily blocked, sealed or altered by users or debris



**Option 3 Example:**  
**Suction-limiting vent system**



**Option 4 Example:**  
**Unblockable Drain Cover**