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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207  
November 22, 2000

Ms. Kathie Morgan  
ASTM  
100 Barr Harbor Drive  
West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959

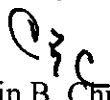
Dear Kathie:

On behalf of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission staff, I am writing to request that ASTM coordinate the development of an ASTM provisional safety standard for safety vacuum release devices to be used with swimming pools, wading pools, spas, and hot tubs.

A CPSC staff study conducted several years ago noted thirteen incidents of disembowelment (evisceration) in public wading pools between 1980 and 1986 and two additional incidents since 1990, most involving children between two and six years of age. The CPSC staff was not aware of any deaths associated with disembowelment, however, the damage is irreversible and has a devastating effect on the child's future health and development. The staff was also aware of nine cases of body entrapment in pools and spas, seven of which resulted in death, between January 1990 and May 1996. The deaths were the result of drowning after the body or a limb was held against the drain by the suction of the circulation pump.

In order to eliminate or reduce these losses, some code groups are now requiring the use of vacuum relief devices which shut down the circulation pump when abnormal suction is detected; however, no safety standards currently exist for such devices. It is requested that a new ASTM national consensus safety standard be developed by the ASTM F-15 Committee on Consumer Products using the fast track provisional standard procedures. Enclosed you will find a list of those who may be interested in helping to develop the standard. Please contact me at 301-504-0554 ext. 2229 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Colin B. Church  
Voluntary Standards & International  
Activities Coordinator

Enclosure

cc: Mr. John Blair, Chairman, ASTM F15 Committee

**PARTIES WHO MAY BE INTERESTED  
IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A VOLUNTARY  
STANDARD FOR VACUUM RELIEF DEVICES**

1. **Dave Stingl/Tony Sirianni**  
**Stingl Switch**  
**McLean Pool & Spa**  
**Great Falls VA**

**(703) 448-POOL/(703) 929-1150**

**Marketed through**  
**Mike Low Spa Parts Plus**  
**Prescott Valley AZ**

**Tel. 888-749-LIFE**

2. **Casey Loyd/Shiva Noble**  
**True Blue Safety Suction Shutdown**  
**Cal Spas**  
**1462 East Ninth St**  
**Pomona CA 91766**

**Tel. 800-225-7727**  
**E-mail [www.calspas.com](http://www.calspas.com)**

3. **John Brown**  
**Vac-Alert Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS)**  
**Vac-Alert Industries Inc.**  
**3245 Oleander Ave.**  
**Fort Pierce FL 34982**

**Tel. 800-374-7405**  
**E-mail [www.vac-alert.com](http://www.vac-alert.com)**

4. **Joe Cohen**  
**Fail-Safe Flow Blockage Suction Interrupt (FBSI)**  
**Fail Safe L.L.C.**  
**1300 South Potomac**  
**Suite 152**  
**Aurora CO 80012**  
  
**Tel. 303-696-9463**
  
5. **Paul McKain/Dave Rizzi/Mark Fritze**  
**Play Safe Pool/Spa System**  
**MarPac Industries Inc.**  
**3300 NW 97 Ave.**  
**Sunrise FL 33351**  
  
**Tel. 954-749-6019**
  
6. **Sentry Valve Company Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 33**  
**Adel, IA 50003**  
  
**Tel. 888-218-6953**  
**Fax.515-993-5412**
  
7. **Caretaker Systems Inc. (CSi)**  
**15540 North 77th St.**  
**Scottsdale AZ 85260**  
  
**Tel. 800-762-0647; 602-948-1199**  
**Fax. 602-951-4319**
  
8. **Peter J. Poczynok P.E.**  
**Ron Schroader**  
**Triodyne Safety Systems, L.L.C.**  
**Safety Device Design and Development**  
**5950 West Touhy Ave**  
**Niles IL 60714-4610**

9. **Dave Allen**  
**Hydro Air Industries Inc.**  
**1317 W. Grove Avenue**  
**Orange CA 92865**  
  
**Tel. 714-974-1920**
  
10. **Steve Peake**  
**Sta-Rite Industries**  
**600 South Jefferson St.**  
**Waterford WI 53185**  
  
**Tel. 800-752-0183**  
**Fax. 800-582-2217**
  
11. **Gene Fleischer**  
**Hayward Pool Products Inc.**  
**900 Fairmont Ave**  
**Elizabeth NJ 07207**  
  
**Tel. 908-351-5400 x 692**  
**Fax. 908-351-0604**
  
12. **Dave Burkitt/Kevan Langner**  
**American Products**  
**10951 W. Los Angeles Ave.**  
**Moorepark CA 93021**
  
13. **Troy Whitfield**  
**Directorate for Engineering Sciences**  
**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission**  
**Room 611**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
  
**Tel. 301-504-0494 ext. 1318**

**14. Yves Fortin**  
**Product Safety Bureau, Health Canada**  
**MacDonald Bldg., 4<sup>th</sup> floor**  
**AL: 3504D**  
**123 Slater Street**  
**Ottawa, Ontario**  
**K1A 0K9**  
**CANADA**

**15. Carvin DiGiovanni**  
**National Spa & Pool Institute**  
**2111 Eisenhower Avenue**  
**Alexandria VA 22314**

**Tel. 703-0083 ext. 149**