

Pool and Spa Drain Cover Flow Ratings

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
April 5, 2011



Agenda

- Introduction
- Problem Definition and Scope
- Panel Discussion
 - › Testing Laboratories
 - › General Interest
 - › Standards Development
- Summary and Close

Observations

- CPSC has observed significant variation in the ratings of like drain covers tested to the relevant provisions of ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 – 2007.
 - › Variation between laboratories
 - › Variation between private sector laboratories and CPSC laboratory
- Variation in testing results is not uncommon.
 - › But variation must be within reasonable limits if test results are to be credible

Meeting Objective

- Determine how the body entrapment and hair entrapment tests should be performed to obtain an accurate flow rating.
- Establish the degree to which flow rating can vary without significantly impacting safety.

CPSC Technical Staff Questions

- With regards to Section 4, Hair Entrapment, and Section 5, Body Entrapment, of ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007, how have these provisions of the standard been interpreted?
 - › Both in the past and now?
 - › The rationale behind the various interpretations?
 - › The point in time that the interpretation changed?
 - › Consideration of other interpretations?
 - › How decisions on which interpretation to apply were made?

CPSC Technical Staff Questions

- What is the potential impact of over-rating a pool and spa drain cover on public safety?
 - › What data supports the conclusion?

CPSC Technical Staff Questions

- What is an acceptable level of variance in flow ratings that would be in the interest of safety?
 - › What data supports your conclusion?

CPSC Technical Staff Questions

- What data available is to help the CPSC assess the scope of drain covers manufactured since 2008 and stamped as compliant with the P&SS Act that have been installed in public pools and spas versus those installed in residential pools and spas?

CPSC Technical Staff Questions

- What actions have been taken or are currently underway to resolve the issue of significant variance in pool and spa drain cover ratings and ensure this problem is resolved and does not occur again?

CPSC Technical Staff Questions

- What is the status of ANSI/APSP/IAPMO-16-2011?
- What is APSP's intention regarding any successor standard?

Meeting Objective

- Determine how the body entrapment and hair entrapment tests should be performed to obtain an accurate flow rating.
- Establish the degree to which flow rating can vary without significantly impacting safety.