

The RECIRCULATOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
 DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
 VOL. 65, NO. 2 – SEPTEMBER 2009

Certified Pool/Spa Operator® (CPO®) Courses – October- November 2009

Sponsor	Dates	Location	Contact	Address	Telephone
Iowa Parks & Recreation Association	October 20-21 November 17-18	Cedar Rapids Burlington	Cathy Shutts	1534 Penrose St Grinnell, IA 50112 E-mail: cshutts@pcpartner.net	(641)236-3917 Fax: (641)236-6779
SLC Pool Consultants	October 29-30	Des Moines	Steve Craig	Swimming Pool Supply 5292 NW 111th Drive Grimes, IA 50111 E-mail: steve@spspools-spas.com	(515)986-3931
Certified Pool Trainers of Iowa & Minnesota	None scheduled		John Szymanski	65910-267 th Street Alden MN 56009-4211	(800)253-7235 Fax: (507)863-2367
ACCO Unlimited Corporation	None Scheduled		Jessica Pollard	5300 NW 55 th Ave Johnston IA 50131 E-mail: jpollard@accounlimited.com	(515)278-0487 Fax: (515)278-2183

Check with the individual training organizations, your inspection agency, or the Iowa Department of Public Health at (515)281-8722 for courses that may be scheduled later.

VGB Update

Anecdotal reports that we have received from local inspection agencies indicate that compliance with Iowa VGB rules is quite high. Most smaller swimming pools have been able to obtain the appropriate drain covers and SVRS and have them installed. Larger pools, including a number of municipal facilities, have had to wait for large drain covers to be available and for pool service companies to schedule installation. We expect most of these will be brought into compliance during the off-season.

A few pools have been temporarily closed. Usually the necessary parts have been purchased and installed quickly. Other facilities have disabled the main drain to get back into operation.

Spa Fittings

As of this writing we do not know of any direct replacement covers for most of the spa suction fittings previously installed (the round ones with all the holes,

usually installed on the side of the foot well). In some circumstances, a spa will have more than one suction fitting for each pump, but the fittings are less than 3 feet apart on the same surface (technically, a single drain). Fittings for new installations are available, but replacing an existing fitting with a full new fitting usually would involve cutting into the spa wall, an expensive and potentially damaging procedure.

Existing spa fittings were tested and listed against a previous version of the ASME standard. The fittings passed tests for the prevention of hair and body entrapment. The new version of the standard requires increased fitting strength and UV resistance, but existing fittings typically are not subject to a heavy load and are normally indoors where there is little or no UV exposure.

IDPH will offer temporary variances for spas meeting specific criteria so that they can continue to operate until replacement fitting covers become available. The conditions for this variance are the following:

1. Each pump must draw from 2 or more fittings that are less than 3 feet apart.
2. The flow rating of the fittings must meet the design flow rate.
3. The fittings must be marked with a listing mark (NSF, UPC, UL) and the standard number (ASME A112.19.8M).
4. Each pump must be equipped with an SVRS.

A letter requesting the variance must be sent to the local inspection agency that will forward it to our office. The following information must be included:

1. The facility name and the spa registration number
2. The volume of the spa
3. The brand and model of the spa pump(s)
4. The brand, model and flow rating of the suction fittings
5. A drawing of the spa showing the location of the fittings
6. A schematic showing the spa plumbing
7. The brand and model of SVRS installed

We will respond as quickly as possible to these requests.

Local inspection agency contacts are listed on our Web site at

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/swimming_pools.asp.

Questions should be directed to Michael Magnant at the IDPH, (515)281-8722, mmagnant@idph.state.ia.us.

Shutting Off the Main Drain

If you are considering disabling a pool or spa main drain for VGB compliance, the rules, effective July 8, 2009, require that you request approval from IDPH

before you proceed. The information you must send to the IDPH is at 641 IAC 15.4(4)“h”(4) on numbered page 19 (PDF page 22) in the rules on the IDPH Web site at

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/swimming_pools.asp

(We are in the process of printing new booklets). Most pools built in the last 10 years or so could probably operated satisfactorily without an active main drain unless the pool has a spray or play feature or water slide that uses the main drain or surge tank as the water source.

Pool and Spa Rules Review!

The last substantial revision of the rules became effective in May 2005. A small administrative amendment was made in 2008 and this year we added VGB provisions. It's time to go over the whole set of rules and see where they can be improved, clarified, and made more effective.

IDPH needs your help in trying to improve the rules. Please take the time to comment on rules that you consider unclear, onerous, or inappropriate. If you are aware of newer technology that should be addressed, please send us information or references. If you think another state has done it better, send us the text or a Web address. Written comments can be sent to:

Michael Magnant

Iowa Department of Public Health

321 E 12th Street

Des Moines IA 50319-0075

Send E-mail comments to magnant@idph.state.ia.us.

We plan to give considerable time for consideration and suggestions, but we hope to complete the revision before the end of 2010. We look forward to hearing from you.

Continuing Education Courses – October-November 2009

Sponsor	Dates	Location	Contact	Address and Telephone	Credit
Iowa Parks & Recreation Association	October 19 November 16	Cedar Rapids Burlington	Cathy Shutts	1534 Penrose St Grinnell, IA 50112 (641)236-3917 E-mail: cshutts@pcpartner.net	2.5 hours
SLC Pool Consultants	None scheduled		Steve Craig	Swimming Pool Supply 5292 NW 111th Drive Grimes, IA 50111 (515)986-3931 E-mail: steve@spspools-spas.com	2.0 hours
Certified Pool Trainers of Iowa & Minnesota	None scheduled		John Szymanski	65910-267 th Street Alden MN 56009-4211 (800)253-7235	4.0 hr
ACCO Unlimited Corporation	None scheduled		Jessica Pollard	5300 NW 55 th Ave Johnston IA 50131 (515)278-0487 E-mail: jpollard@accounlimited.com	3 x 2.0 hours

Remember that Certified Pool Operators[®] in Iowa must obtain 10 hours of continuing education in the five years between renewals of the CPO[®] certificate. The individual CPO[®] must maintain a record of the continuing education. The record must be available to the inspection agency at each facility for which the CPO[®] is responsible.

Check with the sponsoring organization for the subject matter at these courses and for courses scheduled later.