



Connection

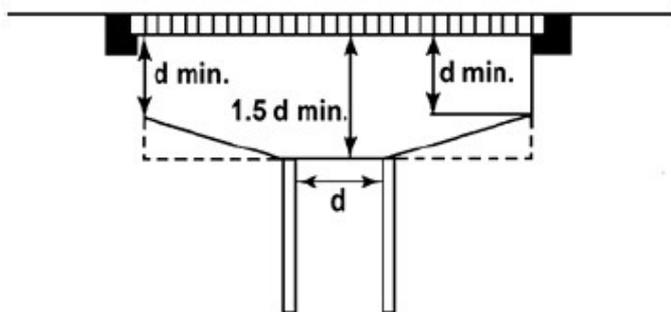
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To: All Santa Rosa County Licensed Pool Contractors
From: Rhonda Royals, Building Official
Subject: Suction Entrapment Avoidance in Swimming Pools/Spas/Hot Tubs/Catch Basins
Date: July 18, 2014

Recently, the Florida Swimming Pool Association contacted several jurisdictions here in the Florida Panhandle regarding “field built sumps” that may be being built in an unsafe configuration creating a potential for entrapment. As adopted in the Florida Building Code, Section 4.5.1 of the Standard for Suction Entrapment Avoidance in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot tubs and Catch Basins, ANSI/APSP-7, (2006 Edition), requires that in field built sumps, the top of the suction pipe must be 1-1/2 times the inside pipe diameter from the bottom of the listed suction cover/grate. For example, if the inside of the suction pipe is 2-inches in diameter, the top of the pipe must be 3-inches below the bottom of the listed suction cover/grate.



d= inside pipe diameter

Field built sumps are required to be inspected by an inspector before filling the pool with water. While ANSI/APSP-7 specifically allows pools and spas to be built without submerged suction outlets, if installed, they must be installed correctly to avoid entrapment. For example, dual outlets in parallel to one pump must be a minimum distance of 3 feet apart (pipe centerlines). When used, submerged suction outlet arrangements shall be single unblockable, dual or three-or-more as defined below: