

## Need-to-Know Information about Federal Pool and Spa Safety Standards

*IMPORTANT: Please read the following article if your organization has a pool or if you take children on field trips to a local pool.*

If you own or operate a pool, spa, or hot tub, read on for some important information about how to comply with the recent Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act and prevent fines from the government.

### What is the Pool and Spa Safety Act?

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act was signed into federal law in December, 2007 to increase the safety of swimming pools and spas. This legislation requires all public swimming pools, wading pools, spas, and hot tubs, regardless of depth, to comply with anti-entrapment standards prior to opening for the 2009 swim season, or as of December 19, 2008 for year-round operations.

### Applies to all 50 states

This federal act applies to *all* states. States are responsible for enforcement, so contact your state's department of health or attorney general's office for detailed information on the law's requirements or read this article to get started.