



MEETING LOG

SUBJECT: PHTA-16 Standard Writing Committee (SWC) Meeting Log

FY 24 OP PLAN ENTRY: Swimming Pools/Spas Drain Entrapment

DATE OF MEETING: 6/3/2024

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Rebekah Kempke (LSM)

FILING DATE: 6/6/2024

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Rebekah Kempke (LSM)

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Contact Pool and Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA) for the full attendee list

Summary of Meeting:

The meeting began by approving the April 22, 2024 meeting minutes. The PHTA-16 SWC reviewed and discussed a letter CPSC staff sent to PHTA on May 29, 2024 regarding CPSC staff concern with recent deaths and injuries associated with accessible pool piping and pool pump suction pressure that can cause limb or body entrapment.¹

CPSC staff gave a brief overview of the contents of the letter to the SWC, with the letter focusing on the hazards of:

- Limb and body entrapments in uncovered and bather-accessible discharge pipe openings that can experience reversed water flow.
- Limb and body entrapments in suction pipe openings that become exposed and bather-accessible when the drain cover is damaged or missing.

The PHTA-16 Chair proposed in Section 1.1 Scope, to change the term “recreational bathing” to “recreational use,” as “recreational use” better reflects the current purpose of public pools.

SWC members then discussed the recent death of an 8-year-old girl who was found in the exposed discharge pipe in a “lazy river” at a hotel pool in Houston, Texas on March 23, 2024. Possible solutions that were proposed by the SWC to address this incident and entrapment in uncovered discharge piping included, but not limited to, 1) installing components that would prevent the flow from reversing (in-line check valve, flow switch, one-way clutch, or clapper valve) or 2) through operation, instructions, or training requirements. To determine what will be viable, the PHTA-16 Chair proposed to reach out to manufacturers and get them involved.

¹ <https://cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/CPSC-Staff-Letter-to-PHTA-5-29-24.pdf?VersionId=dW7klhtvT0.VPqXldKRqLq4wBkQ7FK9m>



Regarding the hazard of exposed suction pipe openings due to a damaged or missing drain cover, SWC members considered using an adapter to add an additional drain cover over the existing drain cover. There was concern expressed by SWC members that this would not only add additional costs, but there is also a possibility for increased hair entanglement and with a secondary drain cover that is concealed it would be difficult to know if the drain cover was damaged or clogged. Further discussion will be needed on this topic, especially regarding the implications of possible solutions.

Next Steps:

The next virtual meeting of the PHTA-16 SWC is scheduled for June 24, 2024.