United States
Consumer Product Safety Commission

# MEETING LOG

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

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 11/18/2024

**LOCATION OF MEETING:** Virtual

**CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG:** Rebekah Kempske (LSM)

**FILING DATE:** 11/26/2024

**CPSC ATTENDEE(S):** Rebekah Kempske (LSM)

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

**Summary of Meeting:**

The PHTA-16 SWC first discussed that the terms “axial,” “paddle wheel,” and “centrifugal pump” are currently not in the Definitions section in the standard. At the previous SWC meeting, the committee briefly reviewed a pump handbook for reference to develop the definitions. Further work still needs be conducted on writing the definitions, which will headed by two SWC members. Their progress will be presented during the next meeting.

The following task groups gave updates on their progress:

- TG2 – Fire Suppression Systems: At their last task group meeting it was discussed whether it was more appropriate to use the terms “fire suppression system” or “fire protection system.” Modifications were also made to the proposed language in new section 3.6.8, to specify that “Any SOFA utilized as a fire suppression water source outlet shall meet the requirements of the PHTA-7 Standard.” Input from PHTA members that are fire engineers or a part of fire departments was requested.
- TG3 – Certification/RDP: The equation to determine the flow coefficient value (C) is difficult for engineers to calculate. It is proposed to assign a value to C instead. It was also discussed if the equation currently in the standard to calculate the maximum allowable flow (Q) is necessary. A task group member offered to share relevant testing data with the task group at the next meeting. This issue has been and will continue to be studied. Clarification needs to be added to the standard in regard to testing sumpless covers as well.
- TG5 – Markings: There was discussion for potential solutions to address problems in current SOFAs regarding the readability of small text on the cover/grate and the difficulty being able to identify the manufacture and/or installation year. Proposed solutions include color coding drain covers/grates based on year with a small dot, requiring a tag that could be attached to the cover/grate, a nationwide electric database where the contractor reports the installation and manufacturing information of the SOFA, and/or increasing the text size on the covers/grates. Members also expressed difficulty in finding installation instructions when unable to identify the manufacture year and information. Additional feedback and input from manufacturers was requested.

- TG6 – Instructions: In order to ensure the correct parts are ordered and installed, the task group proposed developing a quick reference guide for consumers in the form of a chart that lists out the pipe size, depth, orientation, and corresponding flow rate. To reduce confusion, it was also suggested to require manufacturers to state the max flow rate in the instructions, rather than having the consumer calculate it.

The SWC Chair also proposed new business regarding how mud frame and sump markings are currently addressed in the standard pertaining to how "permanent" is defined. Further discussion on this topic will be conducted during the next meeting.

At the last SWC meeting, CPSC staff provided incident data pertaining to entrapment/drownings in bather-accessible pool piping and incidents involving hair entrapment. CPSC staff inquired whether SWC members wanted to request any investigation reports to be redacted from this incident data. The Chair mentioned that the investigation reports may also be beneficial to other PHTA SWCs. He will add it the PHTA Technical Advisory Council's (TAC) December meeting agenda to discuss if they would like any incident reports redacted and will let CPSC staff know at the next PHTA-16 SWC meeting.

**Next Steps:**

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