



MEETING LOG

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

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

DATE OF MEETING: 12/16/2024

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Rebekah Kempke (LSM)

FILING DATE: 12/27/2024

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 PHTA-16 SWC first discussed defining the terms “axial,” “paddle wheel,” and “centrifugal pump” that are currently not in the Definitions section in the standard. Further work still needs to be conducted on writing the definitions, which will be headed by two SWC members. Once draft language for the definitions is developed, the definitions will be balloted.

It was also raised that in the standard, a pump that can have reverse flow is currently not defined. This will need to be done to further aid in the development of new requirements to prevent reversal of water flow in a pool piping system. This is in response to the 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. SWC members discussed the incident and potential causes for why the water flow was reversed. Solutions to prevent reversal of flow included a check valve, sensor, or a Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Act (VGBA) cover. SWC members expressed that a VGBA cover was not necessary and could impact flow and operation of the return outlet, with the primary concern for return outlets being limb and finger entrapment. A task group was developed to evaluate if the current finger and limb entrapment requirements in the standard should be expanded to return outlets, and if so, do the test protocol and probes need to be modified. CPSC staff volunteered to be a member of the task group.

In addition to defining a pump that can have reverse flow, two SWC members will develop definitions for additional types of pumps not currently defined in the standard.

The SWC Chair informed CPSC staff that the PHTA Technical Advisory Council (TAC) did not determine yet if they wanted to request any investigation reports to be redacted from the incident data previously provided by CPSC. The Chair will let CPSC staff know at the next PHTA-16 SWC meeting if they have requested any incident reports to be redacted.



United States
Consumer Product Safety Commission

Next Steps:

The next virtual meeting of the PHTA-16 SWC is scheduled for January 22, 2024.