Ms. Kathie Morgan  
ASTM  
100 Barr Harbor Drive  
West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959  

Dear Kathie:  

On behalf of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission staff, I am writing to request that ASTM coordinate the development of an ASTM provisional safety standard for safety vacuum release devices to be used with swimming pools, wading pools, spas, and hot tubs.  

A CPSC staff study conducted several years ago noted thirteen incidents of disembowelment (evisceration) in public wading pools between 1980 and 1986 and two additional incidents since 1990, most involving children between two and six years of age. The CPSC staff was not aware of any deaths associated with disembowelment, however, the damage is irreversible and has a devastating effect on the child’s future health and development. The staff was also aware of nine cases of body entrapment in pools and spas, seven of which resulted in death, between January 1990 and May 1996. The deaths were the result of drowning after the body or a limb was held against the drain by the suction of the circulation pump.  

In order to eliminate or reduce these losses, some code groups are now requiring the use of vacuum relief devices which shut down the circulation pump when abnormal suction is detected; however, no safety standards currently exist for such devices. It is requested that a new ASTM national consensus safety standard be developed by the ASTM F-15 Committee on Consumer Products using the fast track provisional standard procedures. Enclosed you will find a list of those who may be interested in helping to develop the standard. Please contact me at 301-504-0554 ext. 2229 if you have any questions.  

Sincerely,  

Colin B. Church  
Voluntary Standards & International Activities Coordinator  
Enclosure  
cc: Mr. John Blair, Chairman, ASTM F15 Committee
PARTIES WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A VOLUNTARY STANDARD FOR VACUUM RELIEF DEVICES

1. Dave Stingl/Tony Siriani
   Stingl Switch
   McLean Pool & Spa
   Great Falls VA

   (703) 448-POOL/(703) 929-1150

   Marketed through
   Mike Low Spa Parts Plus
   Prescott Valley AZ

   Tel. 888-749-LIFE

2. Casey Loyd/Shiva Noble
   True Blue Safety Suction Shutdown
   Cal Spas
   1462 East Ninth St
   Pomona CA 91766

   Tel. 800-225-7727
   E-mail www.calspas.com

3. John Brown
   Vac-Alert Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS)
   Vac-Alert Industries Inc.
   3245 Oleander Ave.
   Fort Pierce FL 34982

   Tel. 800-374-7405
   E-mail www.vac-alert.com
4. Joe Cohen  
Fail-Safe Flow Blockage Suction Interrupt (FBSI)  
Fail Safe L.L.C.  
1300 South Potomac  
Suite 152  
Aurora CO 80012  
Tel. 303-696-9463

5. Paul McKain/Dave Rizzi/Mark Fritze  
Play Safe Pool/Spa System  
MarPac Industries Inc.  
3300 NW 97 Ave.  
Sunrise FL 33351  
Tel. 954-749-6019

6. Sentry Valve Company Inc.  
P.O. Box 33  
Adel, IA 50003  
Tel. 888-218-6953  
Fax. 515-993-5412

7. Caretaker Systems Inc. (CSi)  
15540 North 77th St.  
Scottsdale AZ 85260  
Tel. 800-762-0647; 602-948-1199  
Fax. 602-951-4319

8. Peter J. Poczynok P.E.  
Ron Schroader  
Triodyne Safety Systems, L.L.C.  
Safety Device Design and Development  
5950 West Touhy Ave  
Niles IL 60714-4610
9. Dave Allen  
Hydro Air Industries Inc.  
1317 W. Grove Avenue  
Orange CA 92865  
Tel. 714-974-1920

10. Steve Peake  
Sta-Rite Industries  
600 South Jefferson St.  
Waterford WI 53185  
Tel. 800-752-0183  
Fax. 800-582-2217

11. Gene Fleischer  
Hayward Pool Products Inc.  
900 Fairmont Ave  
Elizabeth NJ 07207  
Tel. 908-351-5400 x 692  
Fax. 908-351-0604

12. Dave Burkitt/Kevan Langner  
American Products  
10951 W. Los Angeles Ave.  
Moorepark CA 93021

13. Troy Whitfield  
Directorate for Engineering Sciences  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Room 611  
Washington, D.C.  
Tel. 301-504-0494 ext. 1318
14. Yves Fortin  
Product Safety Bureau, Health Canada  
MacDonald Bldg., 4th floor  
AL: 3504D  
123 Slater Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A OK9  
CANADA

15. Carvin DiGiovanni  
National Spa & Pool Institute  
2111 Eisenhower Avenue  
Alexandria VA 22314  

Tel. 703-0083 ext. 149