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MCAS Iwakuni, Japan – The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act was signed into law by President George W. Bush in October 2007. This law requires all public pools (to include military installations overseas) to have ANSE/ASME approved anti-entrapment (hair, finger, body and limb)/anti-evisceration drain covers installed by December 19, 2008.

Headquarters Marine Corps notified all Marine Corps Aquatics Directors of this new law on October 1, 2008. Within days of this notification a work request was submitted to install new drain covers in the MCAS Iwakuni pools by the deadline.

At the Athletic Business Conference in December 2008, sixteen Marine Corps Aquatics Directors and representatives from HQMC met to discuss this new law. During these discussions we learned that some drain covers would not be ready for sale/distribution until December 18, 2008, the day before the law took effect.

The challenge is that MCAS Iwakuni pools were manufactured/built in Japan; therefore we cannot contact a U.S. manufacturer, provide our drain cover information and have pre-fabricated ANSE/ASME approved drain covers sent to us. We must have our drain covers custom made to meet our requirements and then have them shipped here.

This new law is complex and has been interpreted differently by different people. We at MCAS Iwakuni have taken a strict interpretation of the law in order to ensure that our pools are safe for all of our patrons. We will have the ANSE/ASME approved drain covers installed.

We understand the frustration that our customers feel and we are doing everything we can to become compliant with this new law and open our pools, but customer safety and upholding this law are our number one concerns. We ask for your continued patience in this matter and if you have any further questions please contact the Aquatics Office at 253-4966.