

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2009

Christina Cozzi

Dick Wolfe

Gibbs & Soell, Inc.

212.697.2600

ccozzi@gibbs-soell.com

dwolfe@gibbs-soell.com

**The Association of Pool and Spa Professionals' Views on the Suction
Entrapment Provisions of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act**

(Alexandria, VA) — Promoting consumer safety in the construction and use of pools and spas is a major part of the mission of **The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP)**. Our organization and its membership fully support the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act (Act) regarding suction entrapment. We helped craft the requirements of the Act and worked rigorously to help get it passed. We developed the ANSI / APSP-7 Suction Entrapment Avoidance Standard, which meets or exceeds all the requirements of the Act. Additionally, we have done the following to educate the industry and public on the requirements of the Act:

- We have created and distributed communications to keep our members and the public, including pool operators, informed of the requirements of the Act and to encourage compliance. All of these resources, including a comprehensive VGB Act Compliance Guide, are accessible through our website.
- We have maintained a list of suppliers of compliant drain covers manufactured by our members on our website.
- APSP Staff and volunteers have traveled around the country speaking with pool and spa operators and public health officials to educate them on the Act.
- The APSP has sponsored seminars at the International Expo and other events.
- We have conducted a web seminar on Act compliance, which is online and accessible for FREE through our website.
- In addition to these efforts, we have partnered with the World Waterpark Association and the National Recreation and Park Association to promote Water Safety Month this coming May, 2009, as a way to further communicate the safety message to the public. We are also ready to go to print with a new brochure

informing consumers of the Act and warning swimmers about the dangers of entrapment.

The APSP is dedicated to the safe enjoyment of pools and spas. The Association firmly believes that a properly built and maintained pool remains the safest place to swim.

For more information on pool and spa safety and on the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act, please visit www.apsp.org.