characteristics may pose a present or potential threat to Sanctuary resources or qualities, including but not limited to: Fishing nets, fishing line, hooks, fuel, oil, and those contaminants (regardless of quantity) listed at 40 CFR 302.4 pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 9601(14) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended.

* * * * *

3. Amend § 922.122 as follows:

a. Add new paragraph (a)(2)(iii).


c. Redesignate paragraphs (a)(7) through (10) as paragraphs (a)(8) through (11), respectively.

d. Add new paragraph (a)(7).

e. Revise paragraph (c).

f. Amend paragraphs (d), (e), (f), and (g) by removing the phrase “paragraphs (a)(2) through (10)” wherever it appears and adding in its place “paragraphs (a)(2) through (11)”.

The additions and revisions read as follows:

§ 922.122 Prohibited or otherwise regulated activities

(a) * * *

(2) * * *

(iii) Mooring a vessel in the Sanctuary without clearly displaying the blue and white International Code flag “A” (“alpha” dive flag) whenever a SCUBA diver from that vessel is in the water or removing the “alpha” dive flag before all SCUBA divers exit the water and return back on board the vessel.

* * * * *

(3)(i) Discharging or depositing, from within or into the Sanctuary, any material or other matter except:

(A) Fish, fish parts, chumming materials or bait used in or resulting from fishing with conventional hook and line gear in the Sanctuary, provided that such discharge or deposit occurs during the conduct of such fishing within the Sanctuary;

(B) Clean effluent generated incidental to vessel use by an operable Type I or Type II marine sanitation device (U.S. Coast Guard classification) approved in accordance with section 312 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (FWPCA), 33 U.S.C. 1322. Vessel operators must lock marine sanitation devices in a manner that prevents discharge or deposit of unretreated sewage;

(C) Clean vessel deck wash down, clean vessel engine cooling water, clean vessel generator cooling water, clean bilge water, or anchor wash;

* * * * *

(7) Killing, injuring, attracting, touching, or disturbing a ray or whale shark in the Sanctuary.

* * * * *

(c) The prohibitions in paragraphs (a)(2)(i), (a)(4), and (a)(11) of this section do not apply to necessary activities conducted in areas of the Sanctuary outside the no-activity zones and incidental to exploration for, development of, or production of oil or gas in those areas.

* * * * *

§ 922.123 [Amended]

4. Amend § 922.123 (a) and (c) by removing the phrase “paragraphs (a)(2) through (10)” and adding in its place “paragraphs (a)(2) through (11)”.

[FR Doc. 2010–26762 Filed 10–21–10; 8:45 am]

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

16 CFR Part 1450

Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act; Public Accommodation

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Proposed interpretive rule.

SUMMARY: The Consumer Product Safety Commission (“Commission” or “CPSC”) is proposing this interpretive rule to interpret the term “public accommodations facility” as used in the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act.

DATES: Written comments in response to this document must be received no later than December 21, 2010.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CPSC–2010–0102, by any of the following methods:

Electronic Submissions

Submit electronic comments in the following way: Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. To ensure timely processing of comments, the Commission is no longer accepting comments submitted by electronic mail (e-mail) except through http://www.regulations.gov.

Written Submissions

Submit written submissions in the following way: Mail/Hand delivery/ Courier (for paper (preferably in five copies), disk, or CD–ROM submissions), to: Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Room 502, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; telephone (301) 504–7923.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number for this rulemaking. All comments received may be posted without change, including any personal identifiers, contact information, or other personal information provided, to http://www.regulations.gov. Do not submit confidential business information, trade secret information, or other sensitive or protected information electronically. Such information should be submitted in writing.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background comments or comments received, go to http://www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara E. Little, Regulatory Affairs Attorney, Office of General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814–4408; blittle@cpsc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, 15 U.S.C. 8001, (“VGB Act” or “Act”) requires that drains in public pools and spas be equipped with ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 compliant drain covers, and that each public pool and spa with a single main drain other than an unblockable drain be equipped with certain secondary anti-entrapment systems. Section 1404(c) of the Act. The Act defines “public pool and spa” in relevant part as a “swimming pool or spa that is open exclusively to patrons of a hotel or other public accommodations facility.” Section 1404(c)(2)(B)(iii) of the Act. The Act does not define the term “public accommodations facility.”

In response to numerous inquiries regarding what constitutes a public accommodations facility under the VGB Act, the Commission published a proposed interpretive rule on the definition of “public accommodations facility” on March 15, 2010 (75 FR 12167). The proposed interpretive rule would interpret “public accommodations facility” to mean: “An inn, hotel, motel, or other place of lodging, except for an establishment located within a building that contains not more than five rooms for rent or hire and that is actually occupied by the proprietor of such establishment as the residence of such proprietor.”

CPSC received six comments on the proposed interpretive rule, including two comments from State health departments, one from the Tennessee Hospitality Association, one from an
individual, one from a manufacturer, and one from members of Congress. CPSC staff prepared a draft final interpretive rule for the Commission’s approval, but, on August 4, 2010, the Commission voted to withdraw the proposed interpretive rule and to direct CPSC staff to draft a new proposed interpretive rule with a 60 day comment period and interpreting “public accommodations facility” as “an inn, hotel, motel, or other place of lodging, including, but not limited to, rental units rented on a bi-weekly or weekly basis.” This proposed interpretive rule is in response to the Commission’s vote; elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register, we have published a document announcing the withdrawal of the proposed interpretive rule that was published in the Federal Register March 15, 2010.

B. Legal Analysis

1. Public Pool or Spa. A public pool or spa open exclusively to patrons of a hotel, motel, or other place of lodging, or other public accommodations facility is only one category of public pools and spas under the VGB Act. The Act also defines a public pool and spa to include a swimming pool or spa that is:

- Open to the public generally, whether for a fee or free of charge (Section 1404(c)(2)(A) of the Act);
- Open exclusively to members of an organization and their guests (Section 1404(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act);
- Open exclusively to residents of a multi-unit apartment building, apartment complex, residential real estate development, or other multi-family residential area (other than a municipality, township, or other local government jurisdiction) (Section 1404(c)(2)(B)(ii) of the Act); and
- Operated by the Federal Government (or by a concessionaire on behalf of the Federal Government) for the benefit of members of the Armed Forces and their dependents or employees of any department or agency and their dependents (Section 1404(c)(2)(C) of the Act).

This proposed interpretive rule is limited to the interpretation of “public accommodations facility.”

2. Comparable Federal Statutes. The term “public accommodation” is defined in several other Federal statutes in relevant part as “an inn, hotel, motel, or other place of lodging.” (See, e.g., the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. 12181(7), defining “public accommodation” in relevant part as “an inn, hotel, motel, or other place of lodging, except for an establishment located within a building that contains not more than five rooms for rent or hire and that is actually occupied by the proprietor of such establishment as the residence of such proprietor.” See also the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (FFPCA), 15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq., at section 2203(7); the Civil Rights Act (CRA), 42 U.S.C. 1981 et seq., at section 2000(b).) The Commission intends to incorporate this language into its proposed definition for “public accommodations facility.”

The ADA, FPPCA, and CRA exclude from the definition of public accommodation an establishment located within a building that contains not more than five rooms for rent or hire that is actually occupied as a residence by the proprietor of such establishment. While there may be a rationale for this exclusion in the context of these other Federal statutes, the Commission sees no basis for this exclusion in the context of pool and spa safety. The number of units in an establishment bears no relationship to whether a pool or spa on the premises may contain a safety hazard to the patrons of such an establishment. Thus, the proposed definition would not contain an exclusion for an establishment with five or fewer units for rent or hire.

3. Other Place of Lodging. The Commission’s proposed interpretation of “public accommodations facility” would include the phrase “other place of lodging.” The Commission intends to follow the legal precedent of the ADA in interpreting this term. The legislative history to the ADA provides that the phrase “other places of lodging” does not include residential facilities. H.R. Resp. No. 101–485(11), 101st Cong., 2d Sess. 383 (1990), reprinted in U.S. Code Cong. & Admin. News 1990, at p. 267. The Appendix to the ADA regulations explains that the rationale for excluding solely residential facilities from the category places of lodging is “because the nature of a place of lodging contemplates the use of the facility for short term stays.” 28 CFR App. B, § 36.104, p. 614–615 (1997). Thus, a residential facility is excluded from the definition of public accommodation. However, under relevant ADA precedent, if the facility were to offer a significant number of short term stays, it would lose its characterization as a residential facility and become a “place of lodging,” thereby a public accommodation. Letters from the Department of Justice and case law illustrate this point. See, e.g., Letter from Joan A. Magagna, Deputy Chief, Public Access Section, U.S. Department of Justice (June 15, 1999) (condominium complex does not constitute a place of public accommodation, assuming it does not offer such short term stays that it could be considered a place of lodging); see also Access 4 All, Inc. v. The Atlantic Hotel Condominium Ass’n, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 41601 (November 22, 2005) (condominium buildings may be covered as places of public accommodation if they operate as places of lodging; determining whether a particular condominium facility is a place of public accommodation would depend on the extent to which it shares characteristics normally associated with a hotel, motel, or inn); Thompson v. Sand Cliffs Owners Ass’n, Inc., 1998 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 23632 (1998) (according to the commentary related to the ADA regulations, the difference between a residential facility and a non-residential “place of lodging” is the length of the occupant’s stay; the nature of a place of lodging contemplates the use of a facility for short-term stays).

The Commission intends to use the same criteria as that found in the ADA regulations, legislative history, case law, and DOJ guidance regarding whether a particular facility is residential in nature or, alternatively, an “other place of lodging” subject to the provisions for public accommodations facilities under the VGB Act. To make this clear, the proposed interpretive rule would include the phrase, “including, but not limited to, rental units rented on a bi-weekly or weekly basis.” (Note that while a residential apartment complex would be excluded from the definition of “public accommodations facility” under the ADA, a pool or spa located in a residential apartment complex would not be excluded from the definition of a public pool or spa under the VGB Act because section 1404(c)(2)(B)(ii) of the Act includes pools or spas open exclusively to “residents of a multi-unit apartment building, apartment complex, residential real estate development, or other multi-family residential area” within the definition of “public pool or spa.”)

Thus, for example, for spas within individual condominium units or mountain lodge homes, the inquiry would involve determining whether the condominium unit or mountain lodge itself shares characteristics with inns, hotels, or motels, or whether the unit is rented for a sufficient number of short-term stays such that it becomes a “place of lodging” and thus a public accommodations facility. These determinations are fact-specific, and the Commission will rely on the same criteria as that used by courts and the Department of Justice in making such determinations.
C. Description of the Proposed Interpretive Rule

The proposed interpretive rule would amend part 1450. Section 1450.1, Scope, would explain that part 1450 pertains to the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act and that the statute is designed to prevent child drowning, drain entrapments, and eviscerations in pools and spas.

Section 1450.2, Definitions, would define “public accommodations facility” at paragraph (a) as “an inn, hotel, motel, or other place of lodging, including, but not limited to, rental units rented on a bi-weekly or weekly basis.”

List of Subjects in 16 CFR Part 1450

Consumer protection, Infants and children, Law enforcement.

E. Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Commission proposes to amend part 1450 of title 16 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 1450—VIRGINIA GRAEME BAKER POOL AND SPA SAFETY ACT REGULATIONS

1. The authority citation for part 1450 continues to read as follows:


2. Section 1450.1 is added to read as follows:

§ 1450.1 Scope.

This part pertains to the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, (“Act”), 15 U.S.C. 8001 et seq., which is designed to prevent child drowning, drain entrapments and eviscerations in pools and spas.

3. Add paragraph (a) to § 1450.2 to read as follows:

§ 1450.2 Definitions.

(a) Public accommodations facility means an inn, hotel, motel, or other place of lodging, including, but not limited to, rental units rented on a bi-weekly or weekly basis.

* * * * *


Todd A. Stevenson,
Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.