

FAQ's

Q: Isn't this a simple drain cover change out?

A: No, a drain cover change out is only part of the equation. A complete facility assessment should be completed in order to ensure full compliance and certified compliance documentation.

Q: Who can install replacement drain covers?

A: The question is a bit suggestive in that anyone could do the work, but what is in the best interest of your facility? In some counties, the DOH are writing policies to use, at minimum, a qualified licensed pool contractor and inspection by a P.E. As part of your initial assessment process, you need to establish the limits of liability that the facility wants to endure.

Q: Is there any documentation that needs to be completed?

A: This is currently an evolving topic. Most county DOH's will be requiring plan submittal, permits and fees, signed off by the appropriate professional, i.e. a Professional Engineer (P.E.), installers, etc. We will have confirmation on this in the near future as this becomes clear at the county level.

Q: What do I do if my assessment reveals a non-compliant grate or sump?

A: The facility will require the installation of new or custom grates, alterations to the sump, and/or the addition of a secondary safety device, and a P.E. to confirm compliancy.

Q: Who can provide necessary hardware for this custom work?

A: KSI is proud to announce our appointment to distribute Paddock Stainless Steel VGBA Compliant drain grates. Paddock manufacturers a wide variety of domed and flat grates, as well as special sump components to meet compliancy.

Q: What is the best drain grate cover, plastic or stainless?

A: Each has it's own place as a VGBA solution. If you have a 9", 12" or 18" late model production drain grate with a moderate flow rate, then a suitable plastic grate may be the most cost effective solution....initially. Each of these grates will now have an expiration date, and you will need to replace the drain grates (or even the drain grate and frame) at the recommended intervals.

Q: When is a Stainless Steel grate a more popular solution?

A: If you have a drain sump larger than 18", or you have elevated flow rates, a custom stainless steel cover is your only current solution. Also, if you are interested in a permanent-type grate that may never need to be replaced (visual inspection required after ten (10) years, or have a drain located in a zero-depth or high-traffic area, then stainless steel might be your best solution.

Q: Can we use a domed or finned drain grate in our shallow or zero depth area?

A: Many people feel that a domed or finned grate cover causes a safety "trip: hazard or toe-stub" menace in a shallow pool. You also may not want to use a domed or finned grate cover in a dive well, where it will "shallow" the depth required to assure the safety of the divers.

Q: A DOH official told us that we could not contract for a particular drain because it was not on their approved list, is this true?

A: No, the DOH list is not complete by their own admission. There are several drain covers that have been ANSI/ASTM approved, but are not yet on a DOH list due to paperwork issue either at the testing agency or elsewhere. You need to make sure that the grate cover you are considering is fully compliant to ANSI/ASTM 2007, but you do not need for it to be on the "list." We recommend that you proceed with a facility assessment. KSI will not be providing drain covers that do not meet the ANSI standard. The DOH will also be continually updating their lists.