Thursday, April 27, 2006

**Surface Skimmers (SPE-2006-8)**

Steve Barnes reported that his concern with surface skimmers is two-fold. First, is a trend towards high flow skimmers to accommodate high flow water features on residential pools. Second, is the need for technical clarification for the conducting of certification tests. None of the proposed changes affect current skimmers with the exception of cover and mounting ring strength and UV testing proposal. He suggested incorporating the following language into section 8.8.2:

> The fitting shall have a flow rating equal to or higher than the maximum design flow rate of the skimmer.

He also suggested the formation of a task group to address the following issues:

1) The normal operating range for the test may be different from actual installation and while the standard tests the likely extremes of operational water levels, clarification to the definitions of high, low and normal operating levels will help manufactures, installers and health officials.

2) The Equalizer line can be a suction entrapment hazard if not properly protected with the currently required ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 cover. The equalizer line required for public versus residential merits a review of how to separate the two installations as they are communicated in the instructions.

3) The skimmer cover is located in high traffic areas and the hazards associated with a missing or broken covers is self-evident. The current standard addresses the security of an intact cover, but is silent on the issue of strength and UV durability. Therefore new requirements will be proposed based on the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 suction outlet standard that addresses both issues. This is proposed in the absence of knowledge regarding another appropriate standard.

4) The intent of Section E 4.4 d) and Section E 4.5 is clear, however, the timing of the observations may not correspond to the test apparatus, i.e. it may take longer than 30 seconds from the time the water is lowered for air to appear in the return stream. Observation times on the order of two minutes are being evaluated and results will be provided with specific recommended changes to the standard.

**Motion:** Ken Martin motioned to accept the proposed language. Suzie Campbell seconded.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** All in favor.

*Motion passed. Language to be balloted.*

**Motion:** Suzie Campbell motioned to form a task group on skimmers. Chris Ferriss seconded.

**Discussion:** A few members of the task group suggested that the skimmer task group look to create new categories to address water levels and examine additional issues as they relate to skimmers.

**Vote:** All in favor.

Motion passed. (Task group members: Steve Barnes- chair, Bob Pryor, Chris Ferris, Sal Aridi, Sung Choe, Suzie Campbell)