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APSP Prevails on Action to Withdraw the Approval of ANSI/APSP-7 Standard

Alexandria, VA (March 16, 2007) – The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has ruled in favor of APSP on the withdrawal for cause action filed against the ANSI/APSP-7 standard for suction entrapment avoidance. The ANSI decision in favor of APSP was issued on March 9. The decision denies the request from Paul Pennington (Vac-Alert) and four other signatories to have ANSI withdraw its approval of the ANSI/APSP-7 standard as an American National Standard. As a result of the ANSI decision, the ANSI/APSP-7 standard was upheld as an approved American National Standard. The ANSI/APSP-7 standard received ANSI approval as an American National Standard in September 2006.

APSP presented its case to ANSI's Board of Standards Review (BSR) at a February 8 hearing in Ft. Lauderdale. At the hearing, Paul Pennington, Vac-Alert, and Gary Duren, Code Compliance, alleged that the ANSI/APSP-7 standard was not in the public interest, conflicted with other American National Standards, and was not suitable for national use.

The decision was made by the ANSI Board of Standards Review (BSR) after evaluating whether the criteria for withdrawal for cause had been met. The BSR's decision was that the requestors did not provide sufficient evidence that one or more of the applicable criteria for withdrawal was met.

APSP's Senior Director Technical and Standards Carvin DiGiovanni said that the ANSI denial of the withdrawal for cause "speaks to the quality and diligence of the APSP/ANSI standards program. When challenged and put under the microscope, the APSP-7 standard and the APSP standards program proved to be above reproach. The requestors failed to provide sufficient evidence that the ANSI/APSP-7 standard was not worthy of ANSI approval."

The BSR agreed with APSP that the standard did not conflict with any other ANSI standards and that the APSP-7 standard is in the public interest. APSP's submittal to ANSI said that the ANSI/APSP-7 standard provides for all five known unique hazard categories based on the APSP review of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Epidemiologic Investigation Reports associated with Suction Entrapment. This review was supplemented by data obtained from three APSP symposiums on

suction entrapment that sought input on suction entrapment incidences and potential solutions.

The final issue in the appeal was whether the ANSI/APSP-7 standard was suitable for national use. In its decision, ANSI noted that the ANSI/APSP-7 standard was developed as a national consensus standard with input from representatives of different regions and climates and in accordance with ANSI's requirements; the standard is designed to address suction entrapment hazards found in existing pools and spas as well as newly constructed ones; and it requires that a pool or spa be closed if a drain cover is missing or broken.

ANSI also noted in its decision that APSP has confirmed that as testing and research continues, the ANSI/APSP-7 standard will be open to revision to "incorporate new technology" and to "reflect forthcoming testing." The requestors and other interested parties may propose future revisions to the standard and such proposals will be considered by APSP utilizing the ANSI consensus procedures.

About APSP

The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) is the world's largest international trade association representing the swimming pool, spa, hot tub, and recreational water industries with a mission to enhance the business success of members. APSP member companies include manufacturers, distributors, manufacturers' agents, designers, builders, installers, retailers, and service professionals. APSP members adhere to a code of business ethics and share a commitment to public health and safety in the use of pools, spas and hot tubs. For more information visit www.APSP.org

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