

DON'T SLIDE INTO LIABILITY — PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS

The **TOP 5 THINGS** you need to know about the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act

You've worked hard to build your business — Don't let non-compliance place everything you've worked for at risk. There are five key things you need to know about the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act to help protect your business:

1. There is a mandatory federal safety standard for swimming pool slides.

The Safety Standard For Swimming Pool Slides (16 CFR Part 1207) promulgated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) sets forth performance criteria and tests that confirm the design, construction, and materials used in the manufacturing of swimming pool slides. The standard also makes recommendations related to the handling, storage, marking and installation of the product.

2. The Safety Standard is administered and enforced by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The CPSC is an independent federal regulatory agency that works to protect the public from risk of serious injury or death from consumer products. The CPSC issues and enforces mandatory standards, or bans consumer products if no practical standard can be written to suitably protect the public.

3. Proof of compliance is now required by law.

The recent passage of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) now requires that "Certificates of Compliance" accompany each product or shipment of products that are subject to a mandatory standard. A copy of the "Certificate" must be furnished to each Distributor or Retailer of the product. The CPSC allows the manufacturer to issue certificates to Distributors or Retailers upon request. Additionally, a copy of the certificate must be made available to the CPSC upon request.

4. Violations are subject to civil and criminal penalties.

In addition to the reporting requirements mentioned above the CPSC now makes it unlawful for any entity to fail to furnish a required certificate or issue a false certificate. Violations of this provision are subject to civil and criminal penalties.

5. Qualify your pool slide manufacturer to confirm their compliance.

Suppliers who conform to the requirements of the Safety Standard should be able to produce product testing documentation, preferably third party testing documents, that substantiate compliance and have a functioning system in place to produce the "Certificates of Compliance" that are now required as part of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA).

Slides are a growing category within the pool industry and when properly installed are a proven, safe and fun way for consumers to enjoy their pools. By integrating CPSC certified slide designs into your pool projects you can add another layer of safety into the overall design which mitigates potential areas of risk and helps reduce your overall liability potential.