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**From:** Wolfson, Scott [mailto:SWolfson@cpsc.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2008 7:50 AM  
**To:** paul pennington; Korn, Alan  
**Subject:** Product Safety Letter story on our meeting

### **Product Safety Letter: CPSC Might Get More Funds for Pools and Spas**

Legislators in the coming year, especially Rep. Debbie Wasserman Shultz (D-Fla.) and Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), may be seeking to give CPSC more money specific to its new mandates on pools and spas. That is according to Paul Pennington of Vac-Alert Industries and Alan Korn of Safe Kids Worldwide, who both worked closely with legislators in getting a pool/spa safety law passed and signed in December (*PSL*, 12/24/07, p. 1).

A rider on an energy bill (H.R. 6), the law provides for grants to states that require physical barriers around pools, safety devices on suction drains, installations of vacuum release systems, as well as awareness campaigns on supervising children. CPSC last month received an increase to its budget from \$63.25 million to \$80 million (*PSL*, 12/24/07, p. 1), and a pending Senate bill (S. 2045) would increase the budget incrementally to \$141 million by 2015.

Visiting CPSC January 8 with David Stingl of Stingl Products, the guests asked Acting Deputy Executive Director Jacquie Elder and Office of Information and Public Affairs Deputy Scott Wolfson about the status of CPSC's efforts to fulfill its new duties, especially related to state codes for safety vacuum release systems (SVRS) and public education efforts. Noting that the law just passed a few weeks ago, with the holidays intervening, the CPSCers explained that those efforts are in the early planning stages and more details would emerge in coming weeks.

The visitors also expressed concern that wording in the law related to exemptions from the rules for safety devices could be interpreted to exclude more than intended by Congress. Elder said that such interpretation would be up to the CPSC General Counsel Office. The guests further pointed to a similar 2002 law in Florida that saw a six month delay in enforcement because suppliers of safety devices could not meet demand in time. They urged CPSC to try to ensure something similar doesn't happen. They also gave CPSC an engineering report describing concerns about certain dual drain systems.

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