

**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**HSEH 97-054**

**DATE:** November 14, 1997

**TO:** Environmental Health Directors/Administrators  
ATTN: Environmental Engineering Directors  
Public Swimming Pool Program

**FROM:** Eric Grimm, Acting Chief *EGrimm*  
Bureau of Environmental Health

**SUBJECT** Automatic Pool Safety Covers

**ACTION REQUIRED**

**DUE DATE: NOVEMBER 21**

Due to an on going administrative hearing in Lee County, the issue has been raised that there may be other counties that have pool safety covers installed in violation of the pool code. The safety cover in question is a permanent installation, where the cover is rolled up on a reel and is permanently mounted adjacent to the end or side of the pool. This reel may or may not be in a housing, but is such, that the reel and or housing is several feet wide, stands several feet tall, and blocks more than 10% of the pool perimeter. The cover is extended along tracks that is installed along the pool edge and is usually electronically powered. If you need more detailed information on actual installations, please call Mr. William D. Allen, P.E., Engineering Director, Lee County Health Department, at 941/939-4245 or SC 743-1539.

The problems with this type of system are:

- a) it blocks emergency access to the entire end of the pool,
- b) blocks people from seeing into the pool from that end, and
- c) It provides a diving platform at the pool where adequate water may not be present.

If you are aware of this type installation happening at a public swimming pool in your county, please contact Mr. Robert Pryor by phone (850-487-0004; SC 277-0004), fax (850-487-0864; SC 277-0864) or cc mail. Your prompt attention to this matter will be appreciated.