

# CAT Controller Courier # 39

December 2009

## Happy Holidays,

CAT Controllers would like to wish all of you and your families a happy and safe holiday season. Please remember to set work aside sometime during this holiday season and spend some quality time with friends and family. We all get caught up in our work at one time or another, but this is the time of year that we should all remember why we work so hard - for our families.

### *Special Holidays*

*We're thinking of you this time of year,*

*Wishing you happiness, joy, and cheer.*

*May all your days be warm and bright,*

*And your nights enhanced by holiday light. Enjoy your delectable holiday foods,*

*As parties and gifts create holiday moods.*

*Favorite people play a meaningful part,*

*While treasured rituals warm your heart. You are special to us in many ways,*

*So we wish you Happy Holidays!*

*By Joanna Fuchs*

## VGB is Still Here and There is Plenty to Do!

There are approximately 20% of the nation's 300,000 commercial pools that are not compliant with the Virginia Graeme Baker Act, which was put into effect December of 2007, leaving about 60,000 pools nationwide that are not yet compliant. Simply for two reasons - SAFETY and INCOME, I ask, why aren't all pools compliant? I am talking to the pool service and renovation companies. The time has come but NOT passed to capitalize on our own industry stimulus plan. The CPSC has augmented its resources and has over 100 staff members enforcing this law throughout the United States. They are enforcing this law and operators can be fined large sums of money, \$100,000 to 15 million - along with possible imprisonment. My suggestion to all of you is to go find these pools and explain to the operators the seriousness of this law. Let's help keep our patrons safe and make a few dollars doing so. For information on Stratum VRS and compliant drain covers please contact me at [mtmcginty@chemauto.com](mailto:mtmcginty@chemauto.com)

## **2009 and 2010 CAT & CPO Training Schedule**

CAT Controllers would like YOU to attend our CPO and CAT Dealer Training Classes. Please review the following dates and send an e-mail to Troy McGinty at [mtmcginty@chemauto.com](mailto:mtmcginty@chemauto.com) with; the number of people you wish to send, their names, a contact phone number, the name of your business, and what class dates they will be attending. Contact us as soon as possible as classes are filling up FAST!

### 2009

Thursday, December 10, 2009 (CPO Training)

Friday December 11, 2009 (Dealer Training) - CLOSED

### 2010

Friday, January 15, 2010 (CAT Training)

Thursday, February 4, 2010 (CPO Training)

Friday, February 5, 2010 (CAT Training)

Thursday, March 11, 2010 (CPO Training)

Friday, March 12, 2010 (CAT Training)

Please take notice of the CPO Fusion Classes. Contact Troy McGinty at CAT to request your CPO Primer Online Code and finish your first day of CPO class on-line. After finishing the online portion of the CPO class, pick one of the above dates to complete your CPO Course and follow it up the next day with a full CAT Dealer Training.

### Agenda

9:00 Welcome Breakfast with Coffee, Juice and Danish

9:30 Advanced Water Chemistry and the ORP Method

10:30 CAT 2000 microprocessor based controllers

11:30 Selecting the proper Chemical Feed Equipment and Accessories

12:30 Catered Lunch

1:30 CAT 4000 & 5000 Wireless Web Based Controller

2:30 Poolcomm

3:00 Sales Strategies and Water Quality Management Programs

3:30 Troubleshooting

4:00 Dealer input and feedback on existing controllers and future improvements

In addition to this valuable training each attendee will receive a CAT training manual and certificate of completion.

*Please Email [mtmcginty@chemauto.com](mailto:mtmcginty@chemauto.com) With Your Confirmation*

## Sensor/Probe Behavior

Two major factors that will make your controller's pH and ORP readings act uncanny. The first and most important is your chemical balancing via your manual readings and the second is your probe/sensor condition.

Items that may appear to or genuinely cause out of the ordinary probe/sensor behavior:

- Acid dilution is too strong, may cause your pH dive.
- Acid dilution is too weak, may cause your pH creep up.
- Stray current in the filtration system, may cause rapid & dire fluctuation of ORP.
- pH & ORP probes/sensors are reversed at the controller, will cause readings of 9.9pH or 0.0pH and ORP reading of 999.
- If the probes have dried out, will most likely cause readings of 9.9pH and ORP 000 or 999.
- Suction side installations of erosion feeders, will cause a dramatic spike in the ORP possible putting the controller into ORP High Alarm for a period of time.
- Low Total Alkalinity, will result in fluctuating pH readings
- High Total Alkalinity, will result in pH Lock
- 50ppm Cyanuric Acid and above will result in much lower ORP readings.

Each one of these will alter your probe behavior. We must be sure that we are properly caring for and cleaning our probes regularly. See the below steps:

- 1.) Close flow cell valves. (If probes are installed in-line turn off main circulation pump)
- 2.) Remove probes from the flow cell. Please unscrew "by hand" and disconnect the BNC connectors from the controller turning the connectors counter clockwise "by hand".
- 3.) Next, use a tooth brush to scrub gently the white ring and the tips of the sensors located at the bottom of the probe. Try to remove the oils and calcium build up (use mild degreaser like Joy, 409, or even Toothpaste can also be used, but NOT ACID)
- 4.) Rinse the tips of the probes off thoroughly, wrap the threads of the probes with a couple wraps of Teflon tape and place them back into the flow cell. (Please only turn the probes in far enough to stop leaking.) Also reconnect to the BNC connectors on the controller by turning clockwise. (If the flow cell is murky or clouded please call CAT for cleaning procedure)
- 5.) MOST IMPORTANT: Please manually balance your water, making sure your water chemistry is at the ideal balance that you would like and that your health department requires.
- 6.) Open the flow cell valves. (or turn the circulation pump back on)
- 7.) Perform a "hard reset" at the controller. (See CAT Manual)
- 8.) Give the ORP probe minimum 20-30 minutes to acquire its proper reading and make the displayed reading at the controller your new ORP set point.

- 9.) Check the pH reading at the controller against your manual test kit reading. If the two differ you must calibrate your controller to read the same pH as your test kit. After recalibrating your pH, set your pH set point to the current displayed reading.
- 10.) Turn on your pH feeder and your sanitizer feeder.

Written By:

Troy McGinty  
CAT Controllers, Inc.

### **CAT CONTROLLERS SELLS STRATUM AT A GREAT PRICE!!!**

CAT Controllers, Inc. now is now selling the Stratum VRS. The Stratum VRS is Hayward's answer to the now mandated suction vacuum release systems on single main drain commercial pools and spas in the United States. The Virginia Graeme Baker Act states that all public pool and spas must either have dual main drains or a suction vacuum release system.

Public Law 110-140-Dec. 19 2007 (Title XIV - Pool and Spa Safety) Section 1404 Paragraph C - Public Pools

- (1) Required Equipment effective 1 year after date of this title -
- (ii) Each public pool and spa in the United States with a single main drain other than an un-blockable drain shall be equipped, at a minimum, with 1 or more of the following devices or systems designed to prevent entrapment by pool or spa drains that meets the requirements of subparagraph (B)
  - 5(I) Suction Vacuum Release System
  - 5(II) Suction Limiting Vent System
  - 5(III) Gravity Drainage System
  - 5(IV) Automatic Pump Shut Off System
  - 5(V) Drain Disablement
  - 5(VI) Other Systems - any other system determined by the Commission to be equally effective as, or better than, the systems described in sub-clauses (I) through (V) of this clause at preventing or eliminating the risk of injury or death associated with pool drainage systems.

CAT Controllers' CAT 4000 and CAT 5000 systems integrate with the Stratum VRS systems. The CAT 4000 and CAT 5000 have an input that can be connected to the Stratum VRS so that the controller will display a "Suction Alarm" at the controller as well as send a remote alarm notification to email or text message while logging the alarm event at the Poolcomm website. Having this connection and ability allows you and the pool owner to be aware of suction alarms at the pool no matter where your location. This integration is also beneficial in the case that your circulation system may be down and need to be restarted. For more information regarding the Stratum VRS system and the tie in with CAT Controllers please contact us at 1-800-657-2287 ASAP. The law is the law, make sure you and your pools are compliant.

## **Atlantic City Pool & Spa Show**

CAT will be exhibiting at the Atlantic City Pool and Spa Show in January of 2010. This year CAT will be exhibiting at booth # C601 and also the Hayward Booth 1919. THIS WILL BE AN EXCITING SHOW with many new products and special show discounts. Please be sure to stop by and visit with the CAT Controller and Hayward Commercial team.

### Location:

Atlantic City Convention Center  
One Convention Center Blvd.  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

### Exhibits:

January 26th 12:00pm until 6:00pm  
January 27th 12:00pm until 6:00pm  
January 28th 10:00am until 2:00pm

CAT's M. Troy McGinty will be speaking during the education tracks on Monday, January 25th, 2009 at 2:15pm on pH and ORP Automation and new trends in our industry. To set up a meeting time with your Sales Representative please email [mtmcginty@chemauto.com](mailto:mtmcginty@chemauto.com) with your requested meeting times, your company information, and the best way to contact you at the show. CAT Controllers is looking forward to another successful show and hopes to see you there.

Thank you all once again for reading the CAT Controller Courier. I appreciate all of your support and generous compliments about the articles throughout this year. Please remember that this newsletter and its articles are for you, so if there is anything you may change for future newsletters please let me know. Otherwise keep the article ideas coming, keep reading, and most importantly have a safe and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,

Troy McGinty  
CAT Controllers, Inc.