

POOL SAFETY

POOL COMPLIANCE

Swimming pools should be fun. However drowning is the leading cause of death in Queensland for children aged one to four years. Supervision of kids and teaching them to swim at a young age can save lives.

Effective pool fencing also helps keep kids safe. This is why new pool safety laws have been introduced.

Stage 1 of the new pool safety laws was introduced on 1 December 2009 and applies to new residential pools. The final stage, stage 2, commenced on 1 December 2010 and mostly affects existing swimming pools.

There is now one pool safety standard, the Queensland Development Code Mandatory Part 3.4, that replaces 11 different pool safety standards.

Under the swimming pool safety laws:

- A pool safety certificate, issued by a licensed pool safety inspector, is required when selling, buying or leasing a property with a pool. Pool Safety Certificates are valid for one year for a shared pool (if residents of two or more dwellings can use a pool, such as a Body Corporate pool, it is a shared pool,) and two years for a non-shared pool (if a pool is only accessible to residents of one dwelling such as a private house, or private spa on a unit balcony, it is a non-shared pool). Pool safety inspectors can only issue a certificate when they have placed the certificate details onto the pool safety register.
- The pool safety standard applies to all pools associated with houses, units, hotels, motels, backpacker hostels, caravan parks, mobile van parks and other forms of short-term accommodation.
- The pool safety standard applies to indoor pools as well as outdoor pools.

- All swimming pools need to be included on the state-based pool safety register. Pool owners and others, such as real estate agents and solicitors, can search the register.

- Safety barriers are mandatory for all portable pools and spas deeper than 300 millimetres.

Pool risk management involves these stages:

1. Registration of all pools on the Pool Safety Register.
2. Annual Pool Safety Inspection Reports.
3. Pool Safety Certificate;
 - a. Displayed at the pool site, that needs to be reviewed annually.
 - b. Details of the certificate placed on the Pool Safety Register by the Pool Safety Inspector.

SOURCES

<https://my.qbcc.qld.gov.au/s/pool-register>

<https://www.qld.gov.au/housing/buying-owning-home/pool-safety>

<https://www.qbcc.qld.gov.au/home-building-owners/pool-safety/overview>

<https://www.qld.gov.au/housing/buying-owning-home/pool-safety/pool-laws-and-standards/fences-and-barriers>

https://www.hpw.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/4812/qdcmp3.4swimmingpoolbarriers.pdf

