Ministerial Building Standard
SA 004

Swimming pool safety – upgrading safety barriers

2019

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This standard sets out the new prescribed requirements that apply to a prescribed swimming pool, when a prescribed event occurs that triggers compliance with the Standard.

The provisions in this Standard are to safeguard young children from drowning or injury in an existing swimming pool by ensuring that when a prescribed event occurs, the swimming pool has safety features that restrict access to the pool by young children.

This Standard is a conversion of Minister’s Specification SA 76D – Swimming pool safety and it has been updated to align with the new format for Building Standards, e.g. the introduction of performance requirements.
1. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

1.1 This standard is published as a Ministerial Building Standard under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 and must be read in conjunction with section 156 of that Act and the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (Swimming Pool Safety) Regulations 2019.

1.2 This standard sets out the new prescribed requirements that apply to a prescribed swimming pool, when a prescribed event occurs that triggers compliance with this Standard.

1.3 The provisions in this Standard are to safeguard young children from drowning or injury in an existing swimming pool by ensuring that when a prescribed event occurs, the swimming pool has safety features that restrict access to the pool by young children.

2. PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT

2.1 A swimming pool must be provided with a barrier that is:

   (a) continuous for the full extent of the hazard; and
   (b) of a strength and rigidity to withstand the foreseeable impact of people; and
   (c) restrict the access of young children to the pool and the immediate pool surrounds; and
   (b) have any gates and doors fitted with latching devices not readily operated by young children, and constructed to automatically close and latch

3. DEEMED TO SATISFY PROVISIONS

3.1 Performance requirement 2.1 can be satisfied by complying with the new prescribed requirements in 3.2 below. A reference to an Australian Standard in this section is to the edition that is current for the purposes of the Building Code at the time of application.

3.2 New prescribed requirements

3.2.1 Subject to 3.2.2, a prescribed swimming pool complies with the new prescribed requirements if it has safety barriers installed in accordance with-

   (a) AS 1926 Part 1 - Safety barriers for swimming pools;
   (b) AS 1926 Part 2 - Location of safety barriers for swimming pools.

3.2.2 A child-resistant doorset must not be used in a barrier for an outdoor swimming pool, except in the situations specified in 3.2.3.

3.2.3 A child-resistant doorset may only be used in a barrier for an outdoor swimming pool in the following situations-

   (a) A child-resistant doorset can only be used to form part of a barrier for an in-ground swimming pool if the distance from the nearest part of the swimming pool to the door is less than 1.8 metres (Figure 3.2.3a); and
   (b) A child-resistant doorset can only be used to form part of a barrier for an above ground swimming pool if the distance from the nearest part of the swimming pool to the door, after the swimming pool has been re-positioned as far as possible away from the door, is less than 1.8 metres (Figure 3.2.3b).
Figure 3.2.3a – In-ground swimming pools (including spa pools.)
APPENDIX A - INTERPRETATION

**Child-resistant doorset** has the same meaning as the definition in Australian Standard AS 1926.1.

**New prescribed requirements** has the same meaning as defined in regulation XXX of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (Swimming Pool Safety) Regulations 2019.

**Prescribed swimming pool** has the same meaning as defined in regulation XXX of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (Swimming Pool Safety) Regulations 2019.

**Swimming pool** has the same meaning as defined in regulation XXX of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (Swimming Pool Safety) Regulations 2019.