



POOL FENCING SAFETY STANDARD

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Drowning is one of the leading causes of death in Queensland for children under five, and compliant pool fencing, along with active supervision and learning to swim, can save lives.

From 1 December 2015, all regulated Queensland swimming pools are required to meet the single swimming pool barrier standard, which has been phased in over the past five years.

Information is available on the Queensland Building and Construction Commission website – www.qbcc.qld.gov.au – to help home owners to assess their pools for compliance. Pool owners can also check the website to ensure their pool is registered.

The single standard is designed to increase pool safety and simplify pool safety laws, which previously included 11 different safety standards.

The single standard covers such things as the height and strength of barriers, mandatory non-climbable areas, gate-latching requirements and preventing direct access from a building into a pool area.

The standard applies to new and existing pools in houses, unit complexes, hotels, motels, backpacker accommodation, caravan parks and mobile van parks.

It is the responsibility of all pool owners to ensure their pools comply with the standard by 1 December, or earlier if the property is sold or leased.

For non-compliance with the pool safety standard, there is an on-the-spot fine of \$824.60 for individuals and \$2,356 for companies. The maximum penalty a court can impose is \$19,437.

Penalties for failing to register a pool include an on-the-spot fine of \$235.60 for individuals or \$706.80 for companies. The court can impose a maximum penalty of \$2,356. Pool owners were required to register their pools by November 2011.

Banana Shire Council provide an advice service whereby an onsite inspection can be carried out and advice given as to whether the pool complies or what is needed to make the pool comply. The cost of this inspection is currently \$190.00.

Banana Shire Council can also provide Pool Safety Certificates if required and processes Building Development applications for the Construction of new pools or where pool barriers are being replaced.