



FACT SHEET

Swimming Pools

A regulated pool is any pool or spa that is situated on regulated land and is:-

- a) capable of being filled with water to a depth of 300mm or more; or
- b) capable of holding 2000 litres or more of water; or
- c) has a filtration system.

Constructing a regulated pool is development work, this includes the pool, the barrier, access ladders and any associated decks and some structures. A building development approval is required for constructing or installing a regulated pool, this is to ensure that the pool is a complying pool. Council can provide the required approval or you can obtain an approval from a private certifier, in either case the approval will need to be in place before work commences.

For existing pools it is State Government legislation that from 1 December 2015 all pool owners need to ensure that their pool is registered and is a complying pool. Your pool can be registered free online at www.qbcc.qld.gov.au.

A complying pool will comply with the Pool Safety Standard which includes the provisions of the Australian Standard AS1926.1:2012 and AS 1926.2:2007 and the Queensland Development Code Part MP3.4 Swimming Pool Barriers.

Some of the main points from these documents include the following:-

- The pool fence has an effective height of 1200mm
- The gap between the bottom of the fence and the ground is no more than 100mm.
- The pool fence has horizontal rails no closer than 900mm apart
- The pool fence has vertical rails no greater than 100mm apart
- There are no climbable objects within 900mm from the outside and 300mm from the inside
- The pool fence is well maintained and fixed securely, with no holes, broken rails or verticals.

- There is a current CPR sign that is easily visible to anyone near the pool
- Doors and windows do not provide direct access to the pool area
- The pool gate opens outward, away from the pool
- The gate self-closes and self-latches from all open positions
- Gate latch is to be 1500mm from the ground and 1400mm from the top of the lower horizontal rail
- If the latch is located on the inside it is to be 150mm below the top of the gate and shielded for 450mm
- The gate hinges are to be at least 900mm apart or the lower hinge is to have a non-climbable cap

The list above is intended as a guide so if you are unsure if your pool complies or for complex barriers it is recommended that you engage a licensed pool safety inspector to conduct a full safety audit. Council does have a licensed Pool Safety Inspector to provide this service or you can find one at www.qbcc.qld.gov.au

For peace of mind you could get a pool safety inspector to do a formal inspection with a view to getting a certificate. If you choose to get a formal inspection and your pool doesn't comply, you will receive a non-conformity notice in which case you will need to make your pool comply within the statutory time frames (i.e. 3 months).

A current pool safety certificate is required if you are selling or leasing your property. Most shared pools are to have a current pool safety certificate depending on the tenure and class of the use e.g. Motels.

The above information is general in nature and may not apply in part or in whole to all situations; further information can be obtained by contacting Council or from the Queensland Building and Construction Commission web site at www.qbcc.qld.gov.au.