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SWIMMING POOLS REGULATION 2008

The Swimming Pools Regulation 2008 is expected to appear in the NSW Government Gazette on 29 August 2008 and commences on 1 September. This Regulation replaces the Swimming Pools Regulation 1998.

The making of the Regulation followed a detailed consultation process, including the opportunity for councils and other stakeholders to comment on a Regulatory Impact Statement.

The principal change to the Regulation is that it prescribes *AS1926-2007, Australian Standard Swimming Pool Safety Part 1: Safety barriers for swimming pools*, to be the standard for all child resistant barriers surrounding swimming pools.

AS1926-2007 was developed by Standards Australia following extensive consultation with stakeholders, and reflects the availability of new technology, better understanding of the factors that determine risks of toddler drowning, and changes in community expectations.

Key changes in the Standard include requirements for non-climbable zones, adjusted mesh size for fences, retaining walls that form part of a barrier, and requirements for balconies that project into the pool area. Where the wall of a building is proposed as part of a barrier, there are new requirements for child safe doors, including self-closing and latching devices, the prohibition of pet doors and new requirements for windows. The new Regulation increases council fees for compliance and exemption certificates in line with the CPI.

The new requirements will apply to new pools only. Existing pools will not be required to comply unless there are substantial alterations to the child resistant barrier.



Garry Payne AM
Director General