

Australian Standard[®]

Swimming pool safety

Part 1: Safety barriers for swimming pools



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee CS-034, Safety of Private Swimming Pools. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 18 September 2012.

This Standard was published on 6 November 2012.

The following are represented on Committee CS-034:

- Australian Building Codes Board
 - Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
 - Australian Industry Group
 - Australian Institute of Building Surveyors
 - Building Codes Queensland
 - Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia
 - Consumers Federation of Australia
 - Kidsafe
 - NSW Department of Health
 - NSW Office of Fair Trading
 - Planning South Australia
 - Royal Life Saving Society Australia
 - Swimming Pool and Spa Association of NSW
 - Swimming Pool and Spa Association of Western Australia
 - Swimming Pool and Spa Association of Victoria
-

This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR2 AS 1926.1.

Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

Keeping Standards up-to-date

Australian Standards® are living documents that reflect progress in science, technology and systems. To maintain their currency, all Standards are periodically reviewed, and new editions are published. Between editions, amendments may be issued.

Standards may also be withdrawn. It is important that readers assure themselves they are using a current Standard, which should include any amendments that may have been published since the Standard was published.

Detailed information about Australian Standards, drafts, amendments and new projects can be found by visiting www.standards.org.au

Standards Australia welcomes suggestions for improvements, and encourages readers to notify us immediately of any apparent inaccuracies or ambiguities. Contact us via email at mail@standards.org.au, or write to Standards Australia, GPO Box 476, Sydney, NSW 2001.

Australian Standard[®]

Swimming pool safety

Part 1: Safety barriers for swimming pools

Originated as AS 1926—1976 and AS 2820—1985.
Previous editions AS 1926.1—2007 and AS 2820—1993.
Revised, amalgamated and redesignated as AS 1926.1—2012.

COPYRIGHT

© Standards Australia Limited

All rights are reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, without the written permission of the publisher, unless otherwise permitted under the Copyright Act 1968.

Published by SAI Global Limited under licence from Standards Australia Limited, GPO Box 476, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia

ISBN 978 1 74342 253 3

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee CS-034, Safety of Private Swimming Pools, to supersede AS 1926.1—2007, *Swimming pool safety*, Part 1: *Safety barriers for swimming pools*, and AS 2820—1993, *Gate units for private swimming pools*.

The objective of this Standard is to assist pool owners/users in avoiding pool-related drowning by providing design, construction and performance of various barrier options, which are designed to restrict entry to the swimming pool area by young children.

This Standard is part of a series dealing with barriers, location of barriers and water recirculation and filtration systems for swimming pools, as follows.

AS

1926 Swimming pool safety

1926.1 Part 1: Safety barriers for swimming pools (this Standard)

1926.2 Part 2: Location of safety barriers for swimming pools

1926.3 Part 3: Water recirculation systems

This revision incorporates changes to the previous edition to correct and clarify many inconsistencies and areas of ambiguity. Technical and diagrammatic errors have been corrected to clarify particular safety issues. Glass barriers have been included for the first time.

This revision also incorporates the requirements for the design, construction and performance of gate units installed as part of a barrier from AS 2820, *Gate units for private swimming pools*.

Statistical evidence shows that the majority of drowning deaths in private swimming pools involve children under five years of age. For this reason, the requirements established by this Standard are directed at achieving a barrier that will make it difficult for a young child to gain access to a pool area, whether under, over or through the barrier.

It should be noted that the provisions of this Standard relate to barriers that are intended to be child resistant but not childproof, as effectiveness of the barrier is very much dependent on its location, installation and maintenance.

The requirements are established with the intention of leaving a high degree of flexibility to the consumer in the choice of barrier, desirable aesthetics and cost.

Requirements for the effective use of barriers in protecting children from pool hazards are given in AS 1926.2, *Swimming pool safety*, Part 2: *Location of safety barriers for swimming pools*.

In the development of this Standard reference was made to the Queensland Development Code (QDC).

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of the Standard, whereas in an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

Notes to the text contain information and guidance. They are not an integral part of the Standard.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL	
1.1 SCOPE.....	4
1.2 NORMATIVE REFERENCES	4
1.3 DEFINITIONS.....	4
SECTION 2 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF ELEMENTS OF A BARRIER	
2.1 GENERAL.....	7
2.2 NON-CLIMBABLE ZONE (NCZ).....	7
2.3 BARRIERS.....	12
2.4 GATES, GATE UNITS AND LATCH FITTINGS	17
2.5 OTHER BARRIERS.....	21
2.6 CHILD-RESISTANT OPENABLE PORTION OF WINDOW.....	23
2.7 CHILD RESISTANT DOORSETS	24
2.8 BALCONY BALUSTRADES	25
2.9 ABOVE-GROUND POOLS	25
SECTION 3 LOADING REQUIREMENTS	
3.1 STRENGTH AND RIGIDITY OF OPENINGS.....	26
3.2 STRENGTH OF POSTS AND FOOTINGS	26
3.3 STRENGTH OF BARRIER COMPONENTS.....	26
3.4 CLOSING AND LATCHING OF GATES	26
3.5 DURABILITY OF A GATE UNIT	27
APPENDICES	
A TEST FOR STRENGTH AND RIGIDITY OF BARRIER OPENINGS	28
B STRENGTH TEST FOR POSTS AND FOOTINGS.....	32
C STRENGTH TEST FOR RIGID BARRIER COMPONENTS	34
D STRENGTH TEST FOR FLEXIBLE MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS	36
E STRENGTH TEST FOR RIGID COMPONENTS OF GATE UNITS	38
F TEST OF DURABILITY OF GATE UNITS	40