

1992—No. 419

SWIMMING POOLS ACT 1992—REGULATION

(Swimming Pools Regulation 1992)

NEW SOUTH WALES



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HIS Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, and in pursuance of the Swimming Pools Act 1992, has been pleased to make the Regulation set forth hereunder.

G. B. PEACOCKE,
Minister for Local Government.

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

Citation

1. This Regulation may be cited as the Swimming Pools Regulation 1992.

Commencement

2. This Regulation commences on 1 August 1992.

Definitions

3. (1) In this Regulation:

“AS 1926” means the standard published by the Standards Association of Australia, numbered AS 1926—1986 and titled “Fences and Gates for Private Swimming Pools”, as published on 4 August 1986;

“child-safe” means:

- (a) in the case of a door, being of substantial construction and (when the door is locked, latched, bolted, chained or otherwise secured) having no opening below 1.5 metres above finished floor level (either in the door or between the door and the doorway) through which it is possible to pass a standard test bar; and
- (b) in the case of a window, being of substantial construction and being so fixed (by means of a keyed locking device or other child-resistant device) that it has no opening through which it is possible to pass a standard test bar; and
- (c) in the case of a wall, being of substantial construction, having vertical sides and having a height of at least 1.2 metres and (in the case of a wall which has above its top a gap of 105 millimetres or more) having no footholds wider than 10 millimetres within 1.1 metres of the top of the wall; and
- (d) in any other case, being of substantial construction and having no opening through which it is possible to pass a standard test bar;

“Director-General” means the Director-General of the Department of Local Government and Co-operatives;

“standard test bar” means a round bar having a diameter of 105 millimetres;

“the Act” means the Swimming Pools Act 1992.

(2) In this Regulation, a reference to finished floor level, in relation to a door or window, is a reference to the finished floor level or finished ground level at the base of the door or window or, if the level on one side of the door or window is higher than that on the other side, to the higher of the two levels.

(3) In this Regulation, a reference to a numbered form is a reference to a form so numbered set out in Schedule 1.

PART 2—ACCESS TO SWIMMING POOLS

Division 1—Outdoor swimming pools for dwelling-houses etc.

Sec. 7: general requirements

4. (1) For the purposes of section 7 (1) (b) of the Act, the prescribed standards in accordance with which a child-resistant barrier surrounding a swimming pool is to be designed, constructed, installed and maintained are the standards set out in AS 1926.

(2) A child-resistant barrier is taken to comply with the standards set out in AS 1926 so long as it complies with the minimum requirements of those standards.

(3) To the extent to which it is formed by, or includes, a dividing fence, a child-resistant barrier is not required to comply with such of the provisions of Clause 2.3 of AS 1926 as require there to be a clear span of 1.2 metres to finished ground level within the outside quadrant referred to in that Clause.

(4) This clause does not apply to existing swimming pools.

Secs. 8, 9, 10: exemptions

5. (1) For the purposes of sections 8 (2), 9 (2) and 10 (2) of the Act, the prescribed standards in accordance with which access to a swimming pool from a residential building is to be restricted are as provided by this clause.

(2) In relation to each doorway giving access to the swimming pool:

(a) the door (or, if there is a security door in addition to another door, either of those doors) must be a child-safe door and must be kept child-safe by means of a lock, latch, bolt, chain or other child-resistant device located at least 1.5 metres above finished floor level; and

(b) there must not, on the door or on the door frame, be any footholds wider than 10 millimetres between the release mechanism of the door and any point 100 millimetres above finished floor level.

(3) The lock, latch, bolt, chain or other child-resistant device referred to in subclause (2) (a) may be located less than 1.5 metres above finished floor level so long as:

(a) it is kept fastened by a locking device (operated by a key or other detachable instrument) when not in actual use; and

(b) the key or other detachable instrument is kept at least 1.5 metres above finished floor level or is otherwise kept so as to be inaccessible to young children.

(4) In relation to each window giving access to the swimming pool:

(a) the bottom of the lowest opening panel of the window must (when measured in the closed position) be at least 1.2 metres above finished floor level; and

(b) there must not be any footholds wider than 10 millimetres between the bottom of the lowest opening panel of the window and any point within 1.1 metres below the bottom of that panel.

(5) Subclause (4) does not apply to a child-safe window or to a window that is totally enclosed by a child-safe grille.

(6) This clause does not apply to existing swimming pools.

Division 2—Outdoor swimming pools for movable dwellings, hotels and motels

Sec. 12: general requirements

6. (1) For the purposes of section 12 (d) of the Act, the prescribed standards in accordance with which a child-resistant barrier surrounding a swimming pool is to be designed, constructed, installed and maintained are the standards set out in AS 1926.

(2) A child-resistant barrier is taken to comply with the standards set out in AS 1926 so long as it complies with the minimum requirements of those standards.

(3) To the extent to which it is formed by, or includes, a dividing fence, a child-resistant barrier is not required to comply with such of the provisions of Clause 2.3 of AS 1926 as require there to be a clear span of 1.2 metres to finished ground level within the outside quadrant referred to in that Clause.

Division 3—Indoor swimming pools

Sec. 14: general requirements

7. (1) For the purposes of section 14 of the Act, the prescribed standards in accordance with which access to a swimming pool is to be restricted are as provided by this clause.

(2) In relation to each doorway giving access to the swimming pool:

(a) the door (or, if there is a security door in addition to another door, either of those doors) must be a child-safe door and must be kept child-safe by means of a lock, latch, bolt, chain or other child-resistant device located at least 1.5 metres above finished floor level; and

(b) there must not, on the door or on the door frame, be any footholds wider than 10 millimetres between the release mechanism of the door and any point 100 millimetres above finished floor level.

(3) The lock, latch, bolt, chain or other child-resistant device referred to in subclause (2) (a) may be located less than 1.5 metres above finished floor level so long as:

- (a) it is kept fastened by a locking device (operated by a key or other detachable instrument) when not in actual use; and
- (b) the key or other detachable instrument is kept at least 1.5 metres above finished floor level or is otherwise kept so as to be inaccessible to young children.

(4) In relation to each window giving access to the swimming pool:

- (a) the bottom of the lowest opening panel of the window must (when measured in the closed position) be at least 1.2 metres above finished floor level; and
- (b) there must not be any footholds wider than 10 millimetres between the bottom of the lowest opening panel of the window and any point within 1.1 metres below the bottom of that panel.

(5) Subclause (4) does not apply to a child-safe window or to a window that is totally enclosed by a child-safe grille.

(6) This clause does not apply to existing swimming pools.

Division 4—General

Sec. 19: design etc. of walls of residential buildings etc,

8. For the purposes of section 19 (b) of the Act, the prescribed standards in accordance with which a wall is to be designed, constructed, installed and maintained are that the wall is to be child-safe.

Sec. 20: exemption for spa pools

9. For the purposes of section 20 of the Act, the prescribed standards in accordance with which access to the water in a spa pool is to be restricted are that the spa pool must be covered or secured by a child-safe structure (such as a door, lid, grille or mesh) that is fastened to the spa pool by a child-resistant device.

Sec. 22: other exemptions

10. (1) A local authority may impose a fee of up to \$50 on an application for an exemption under section 22 of the Act.

(2) An application made to a local authority under section 22 of the Act is to be in the form approved by that authority.

- (3) The form must contain a statement to the effect that:
- (a) the applicant is entitled to appeal to the Land and Environment Court against the local authority's refusal of the application; and
 - (b) the local authority's failure to determine the application within 6 weeks after it is made is taken, for the purposes of any such appeal, to be a refusal of the application.
- (4) A local authority:
- (a) that refuses to grant an exemption under section 22 of the Act in respect of a swimming pool; or
 - (b) that imposes conditions on an exemption under section 22 of the Act in respect of a swimming pool,

must cause notice of the decision to be served on the owner of the premises in or on which the swimming pool is situated.

- (5) Such a notice:
- (a) must give reasons for the decision; and
 - (b) must state that the owner of the premises is entitled to appeal to the Land and Environment Court from the decision.

(6) For the purposes of section 22 (1) (a) of the Act, the fact that an adult occupier of the premises in or on which a swimming pool is situated would be significantly impeded (because of a physical disability or impairment of the occupier) in gaining access to the swimming pool if the requirements of Part 2 of the Act were complied with is a special circumstance that justifies the granting of an exemption from those requirements.

Sec. 23: directions by local authorities

11. A local authority that gives a direction under section 23 of the Act to the owner of any premises must include in the direction:

- (a) the reasons for its decision to give the direction; and
- (b) a statement to the effect that the owner of the premises is entitled to appeal to the Land and Environment Court from the decision.

Sec. 24: certificates of compliance

12. (1) A local authority may impose a fee, of up to \$50 on an application for a certificate of compliance under section 24 of the Act.

(2) An application made to a local authority under section 24 of the Act is to be in the form approved by that authority.

(3) The form must contain a statement to the effect that:

- (a) the applicant is entitled to appeal to the Land and Environment Court against the local authority's refusal of the application; and
- (b) the local authority's failure to determine the application within 6 weeks after it is made is taken, for the purposes of any such appeal, to be a refusal of the application.

(4) A local authority that refuses to issue a certificate under section 24 of the Act in respect of a swimming pool must cause notice of its decision to be served on the owner of the premises in or on which the swimming pool is situated.

(5) Such a notice:

- (a) must give reasons for the decision; and
- (b) must state that the owner of the premises is entitled to appeal to the Land and Environment Court from the decision.

PART 3—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 27: certificates of identification

13. Form 1 is the prescribed form of certificate for the purposes of section 27 of the Act.

Sec. 31: Pool Fencing Advisory Committee

14. The constitution and procedure of the Pool Fencing Advisory Committee are to be as approved by the Minister.

Sec. 35: penalty notices

15. (1) For the purposes of section 35 of the Act:

- (a) each offence referred to in the Table to this clause is a prescribed offence; and
- (b) the number of penalty units specified in that Table in respect of each such offence is the prescribed penalty for that offence.

(2) A penalty notice under section 35 of the Act is to be in the form approved by the Director-General.

TABLE

<i>Offence</i>	<i>Number of penalty units</i>
An offence against section 7 (1) of the Act.....	2
An offence against section 12 of the Act	2
An offence against section 14 of the Act	2
An offence against section 15 (1) of the Act.....	2
An offence against section 16 of the Act	2
An offence against section 23 (3) of the Act	2

Repeal

16. The Swimming Pools Regulation 1990 is repealed.

SCHEDULE 1—FORMS

Form 1

(C1. 13)

CERTIFICATE OF IDENTIFICATION

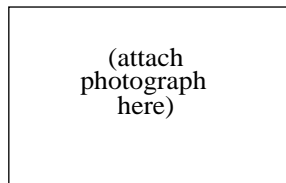
(Swimming Pools Act 1992)

This certifies that,
(insert name of inspector)

whose photograph and signature appear hereunder, is an inspector for:

.....
(insert name of local authority)

for the purposes of the Swimming Pools Act 1992.



.....
(signature of inspector)

(seal of authority)

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The holder of this certificate is empowered, by section 28 of the Swimming Pools Act 1992, to enter any premises in or on which he or she suspects that a swimming pool is situated and to examine the premises and, in particular, any swimming pool (and any barrier or other means of restricting access to any swimming pool) situated on the premises.

This power may be exercised with the consent of the occupier of the premises or, if that consent cannot be obtained, at any time (between 9.00 am. and sunset) after 24 hours' notice of the proposed exercise of the power has been given to the occupier of the premises.

The holder of this certificate is not empowered to enter such part of any building as is used for residential purposes, or any movable dwelling, otherwise than with the consent of the occupier of the building or dwelling or under a search warrant.

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SCHEDULE 1—FORMS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The object of this Regulation is to prescribe matters that are necessary or convenient to the operation of the Swimming Pools Act 1992. The Regulation makes provision for:

- (a) standards of design and construction for fences for outdoor swimming pools (clauses 4 and 6); and
 - (b) standards of restricting access to outdoor swimming pools in cases where fencing is not required (clause 5); and
 - (c) standards of restricting access to indoor swimming pools (clause 7); and
 - (d) standards of design and construction for certain walls that are used in place of fencing (clause 8); and
 - (e) standards of restricting access to spa pools (clause 9); and
 - (f) applications for exemptions under section 22 of the Act (clause 10); and
 - (g) directions under section 23 of the Act (clause 11); and
 - (h) certificates of compliance under section 24 of the Act (clause 12); and
 - (i) the form of certificates of identification under section 27 of the Act (clause 13); and
 - (j) the constitution and procedure of the Pool Fencing Advisory Committee (clause 14); and
 - (k) penalty notices under section 35 of the Act (clause 15); and
 - (l) the repeal of the Swimming Pools Regulation 1990 (clause 16).
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