

Australian Standard[®]

Swimming pool safety

**Part 1: Safety barriers for swimming
pools**

STANDARDS
Australia



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 17 January 2007. This Standard was published on 12 July 2007.

The following are represented on Committee CS-034:

- Australian Building Codes Board
- Australian Industry Group
- Australian Institute of Building Surveyors
- Australian Safe Communities Foundation
- Australian Wire Industry Association
- Consumers Federation of Australia
- Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport (NT)
- Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation (Queensland)
- Kidsafe National
- National Injury Surveillance Unit
- Office of Fair Trading NSW Consumer Protection Agency
- Planning South Australia
- Royal Life Saving Society Australia
- Swimming Pool and Spa Association of NSW
- Swimming Pool and Spa Association of Victoria
- Swimming Pool and Spa Association of Western Australia

A1

This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as R 05245.

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 public comment periods.

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Standards may also be withdrawn.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**

Originally as AS 1926—1976.
Previous edition 1986.
Revised and redesignated as AS 1926.1—1993.
Second edition 2007.
Reissued incorporating Amendment No. 1 (May 2008).

COPYRIGHT

© Standards Australia

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.

Published by Standards Australia GPO Box 476, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia
ISBN 0 7337 8286 8

PREFACE

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

This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (May 2008). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.

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 deny, delay or detect unsupervised 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 and filtration systems

This edition incorporates the following major changes to the previous Standard:

- (a) Correction and clarification of some inconsistencies.
- (b) Changes to the effective height of a fence and other barrier measurements.
- (c) Additional requirements for permanent bodies of water.

The revision of this Standard was undertaken to correct technical and diagrammatic errors and to clarify particular safety issues.

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 the Standard are directed at obtaining 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*. Requirements for gate units for private swimming pools are set out in AS 2820, *Gate units for private swimming pools*.

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.

Statements expressed in mandatory terms in notes to tables and figures are deemed to be requirements of this Standard. All dimensions for all Figures are in millimetres, unless noted otherwise.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL	
1.1 SCOPE	4
1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS	4
1.3 DEFINITIONS	4
SECTION 2 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF ELEMENTS OF A BARRIER	
2.1 GENERAL	5
2.2 MATERIALS AND FINISH	6
2.3 FENCING	6
2.4 GROUND CLEARANCE	11
2.5 GATES AND FITTINGS	12
2.6 RETAINING WALL OR OTHER SUCH BARRIER	15
2.7 CHILD-RESISTANT OPENABLE PORTION OF WINDOW	17
2.8 CHILD-RESISTANT DOORSET	18
2.9 BALCONY	18
2.10 ABOVEGROUND POOLS	19
SECTION 3 LOADING REQUIREMENTS	
3.1 STRENGTH AND RIGIDITY OF OPENINGS	21
3.2 STRENGTH OF POSTS AND FOOTINGS	21
3.3 STRENGTH OF FENCING COMPONENTS	21
3.4 CLOSING AND LATCHING OF GATES	22
APPENDICES	
A TEST FOR STRENGTH AND RIGIDITY OF FENCING OPENINGS	23
B STRENGTH TEST FOR POSTS AND FOOTINGS	27
C STRENGTH TEST FOR RIGID FENCINGS COMPONENTS	29
D EXAMPLES OF POOL FENCES	31

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard
Swimming pool safety****Part 1: Safety barriers for swimming pools**

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies requirements for the design, construction and performance of fences, gates, retaining walls, windows, doorsets and balconies intended to form a barrier that will restrict the access of young children to swimming pools.

NOTES:

- 1 Public swimming pools have different human dynamics, such as access for people with disabilities, increased gate usage, crowd behaviour and supervision, and the duplication of the requirements of this Standard may not always be appropriate.
- 2 Appendix D gives a broad guide to some of the key construction criteria that need to be met by some of the more common types of barriers, in order to comply with the requirements of this Standard.

1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following document is referred to in this Standard:

AS
2820 Gate units for private swimming pools

1.3 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

1.3.1 Arc of operation

The area defined by the movement of a gate from fully open to fully closed.

1.3.2 Barrier

The assembly of components, natural or otherwise, that forms the intended barrier to the pool. The barrier includes items such as posts and panels, gates and doorsets constructed or natural walls, sides of buildings, child-resistant windows, balustrades on a balcony, where they form part of the intended barrier.

1.3.3 Child-resistant doorset

A doorset that comprises a door, door frame, self-closing device and self-latching device, and designed to provide an access way from the building to the swimming pool.

1.3.4 Fencing

A barrier comprising a fence and associated gate or gates.

1.3.5 Fencing height

The height perpendicular to the finished ground level at any point along the length of the fencing, measured on the outside of the fencing (see Figure 2.1).