

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

**Swimming pool safety**

**Part 3: Water recirculation systems**

**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 August 2010. This Standard was published on 1 September 2010.

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The following are represented on Committee CS-034:

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

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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 10024.

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.

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**Part 3: Water recirculation systems**

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee CS-034 on the safety of swimming pools, to supersede AS 1926.3—2003, *Swimming pool safety, Part 3: Water recirculation and filtration systems*.

*This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (December 2011). 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.*

This Standard is part of a series dealing with fencing, location of fencing, and water recirculation systems.

The series of Standards is as follows:

AS

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 1926   | Swimming pool safety                                   |
| 1926.1 | Part 1: Safety barriers for swimming pools             |
| 1926.2 | Part 2: Location of safety barriers for swimming pools |
| 1926.3 | Part 3: Water recirculation systems (this Standard)    |

The objective of this Standard is to provide regulatory authorities, pool and equipment manufacturers and pool users with requirements for skimmer boxes and other permanent water outlets in pools in order to minimize the chance of injuries in swimming pools in Australia.

The major area of change from the previous version of this Standard is that it allows for development of alternative skimming devices and outlet covers, the requirements for which are now performance based rather than prescriptive.

To permit the pool industry time to adjust to this new edition of the Standard, the 2003 version of AS 1926.3 will remain available superseded and will be withdrawn 12 months from the date of publication of this Standard.

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 a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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## FOREWORD

In 2003, Committee CS-034 determined that the next version of this Standard would be as close as possible to a performance based standard. The final trigger to set this transition in motion was the NSW Coroner's reports on a number of recent incidences in spas.

It is vital that a standard does not preclude the development of newer, innovative and possibly more effective products and systems. This Standard will allow such development.

A further problem with the previous edition is that the prescriptive design of outlet covers allowed some design variations without the requirement of testing to prove effectiveness. It has been noted in a South Australian study that although most complied with AS 1926.3—2003 some 21% of covers presently available have never been tested and the majority currently available are likely to fail some of the test requirements of this Standard.

In recognition of the recent development of alternative skimming systems, this Standard, while retaining the main design characteristics of a swimming pool skimmer box, introduces requirements, standards and a testing regime for alternative skimming systems, many of which are currently in use on prefabricated spas.

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

### Australian Standard Swimming pool safety

#### Part 3: Water recirculation systems

#### 1 SCOPE

This Standard sets out requirements for skimmer boxes and other permanent water outlets in swimming pools and spas.

#### 2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

60529 Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)

ASME

A112.19.8 Suction Fittings for Use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs

A1 | ANSI/APSP

16 Standard Suction Fittings for use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs

#### 3 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard the definitions below apply.

A1 | **3.1 Independent testing laboratory**

A testing laboratory or facility independent of the manufacturer.

**3.2 Alternative skimming device**

A surface skimming device that is not manufactured in accordance with Clauses 5.1 to 5.5.

**3.3 Auxiliary outlet**

An outlet connected to a skimmer box or an alternative skimming system (Clause 5.6.1)

**3.4 Branch lines**

Plumbing lines that connect outlets to a common line.

**3.5 Child resistant lid**

A skimmer box lid that, when installed in its designed position, cannot be lifted off vertically with a force less than 100 N or has a locking mechanism.

**3.6 Common line**

The plumbing line connecting branch lines to a pump.

**3.7 Outlets**

Those openings in the pool wall or floor, other than a skimmer box, through which water is drawn from the pool by a pump.