



ALL ABOUT THE STRICT NEW POOL LAWS

The new pool certification regime covers two aspects of your pool area. These are:-

1. Your pool fence/barrier – its scope, geometry and clearance from surrounding objects.
2. Your CPR resuscitation signage – it must be current containing correct information.

The Legislation

The requirements have been driven by changes to MP 3.4 of the Queensland Development Code which requires all pool enclosures to be certified and the certificate to be displayed at the building entrance or at the pool itself.

What are the major changes?

1. Pool Inspectors

Pool safety inspectors are government trained and accredited.

Pool safety inspectors are personally liable if they do not list all aspects of non-compliance.

Pools and pool inspectors are spot checked and if they have certified a pool with any item not 100% compliant they are fined and lose their license.

2. Pool Barriers

Doors opening directly from an outdoor building to a pool area are no longer permitted. The door must exit into a small fenced area built with compliant fencing and gate. Self closing doors no longer suffice.

Windows opening onto pool areas must be security screened or open no more than 100mm. Maximum 100mm gap under a fence with no loose dirt or earth be allowed under the fence regardless of how hard or rocky the earth is. The government says this prevents children digging under it. Clearances now required inside the pool fence. No climbable object within 300 mm of the barrier.

There is no flexibility at all in the requirements. That is if a fence is even say 4mm outside a certain requirement it cannot pass until it meets or exceeds the required measurement.

IMPORTANT - Most current pool barriers will not initially comply with the new onerous requirements. The new requirements are voluminous with every possible detail and aspect covered.

The good news is your report allows you to confidently take action and gain your pool certification.

3. Pool Signage

Most older pool resuscitation signs will not comply with the new signage requirements which contain the new CPR procedures. This is why even if you have a sign it may not comply. We understand that when you look at the detail a report goes into you could be forgiven for thinking it goes too far, well the reality is it goes as far as the government requires it to and no more. At the end of the day having a pool barrier or signage that does not comply is an unacceptable risk for a pool owner. The new requirements are strictly enforced with massive fines and if a drowning were to occur you want to have a fully compliant pool. Your compliance may even prevent a drowning.

Need more advice?

Fences - Talk to your fencing contractor about any aspect of modifying or replacing you pool barrier.

For further clarifications go to the government website, it is www.dlqp.qld.gov.au/pool-safety/pool-safety-laws.html

You can also go to the *Solutions in Engineering* website www.solutionsie.com.au

If you need phone advice ring 1300 136 036 – the cost is \$176 per hour or part thereof. If you are a Body Corporate committee member you may need to get Body Corporate permission before calling.