



# Building newsflash number 455

## Swimming pool safety system update

### Purpose

To provide an update on the implementation of Queensland's new pool safety laws.

### Background

The Queensland Government has introduced new pool safety laws aimed at further reducing the incidences of drowning and serious immersion injuries of young children in swimming pools. The final phase of the new laws commences on 1 December 2010.

### Issues

#### Approval of Royal Life Saving Society course

On 22 November 2010, the Pool Safety Council (PSC) approved a second swimming pool safety inspector training course to be conducted by the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS). RLSS propose to run a number of training courses across the state. Individuals proposing to apply for a pool safety inspector's licence, including persons from Local Governments and the private sector, may contact RLSS for enrolment and other course information:

Royal Life Saving Society Queensland  
tel +61 7 3823 2823  
poolsafetyadmin@rlssq.com.au  
www.royallifesavingqueensland.com.au

**New pool safety forms**—A number of new pool safety forms are available, including:

- Form 23—Pool safety certificate
- Form 24—Application or renewal for course approval
- Form 26—Pool safety nonconformity notice
- Form 27A—Licence application form
- Form 27B—Application for pool safety inspector licence—suitability declaration
- Form 28—Application for pool safety standard exemption
- Form 35—Mediation certificate
- Form 36—Notice of no pool safety certificate.

**Pool safety fact sheets, guidelines and website material**—A range of new pool safety fact sheets and guidelines are also available, including:

- New pool safety laws overview
- New pool safety laws—Information for Local Governments
- New pool safety laws—Leasing a property with a pool
- New pool safety laws—Selling a property with a pool
- Tips to make your pool safer
- Local Government swimming pool safety guideline
- Swimming pool safety inspector course guideline.

Under sections 133A and 246BF of the *Building Act 1975* (BA), building certifiers and pool safety inspectors must have regard to these guidelines in performing their functions. New guidelines for pool safety inspectors and pool owners and a fact sheet for short-term accommodation are currently being developed and will be available on the Department of Infrastructure and Planning's website soon.

A new pool safety section has also been added to the department's website and is available at [www.dip.qld.gov.au/poolsafety](http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/poolsafety). The fact sheets, guidelines and code of conduct for swimming pool safety inspectors can also be accessed at this website.



### Additional pool safety laws information sessions

Eleven free public information sessions have been held across Queensland from 18 to 26 November 2010. Due to high demand, a further two sessions will be held at:

Location	Date	Time	Venue
Brisbane North (Arana Hills)	7 Dec 2010	2.30 pm–6.00 pm	Arana Leagues Club, 247 Dawson Parade, Keperra
Ipswich	13 Dec 2010	2.30 pm–6.00 pm	Ipswich Golf Club, 1A Samford Road, Leichhardt

Registration for the information sessions is not required. Topics to be covered include:

- pool safety certificates and when they are required
- the new pool safety standard
- pools covered by the new laws
- the role of the Pool Safety Council
- the role of pool safety inspectors
- prescribed minor repairs
- the role of Local Governments
- the pool safety register
- reporting of immersion incidents
- pool safety management plans.

### Building certifiers

Under section 289 of the BA all licensed building certifiers are automatically licensed as pool safety inspectors until 4 November 2011. Along with all other pool safety inspectors, building certifiers are listed on the publicly accessible pool safety register. Building certifiers who do not wish to remain on the register are urged to surrender their licence to the PSC.

Final inspection certificates given by building certifiers for building work that includes the construction of, or alteration to, a regulated pool can be used instead of a pool safety certificate. This is also the case for a certificate of classification given for a building that includes a regulated pool or on land where a regulated pool is situated. Both certificates are valid for the same period of time as a pool safety certificate, that is, one year for shared pools or two years for non-shared pools. However, this is only allowed if the certificate was issued against the current pool safety standard. If the certificate was issued against an older pool safety standard, it should not be used instead of a pool safety certificate. In this case, a separate pool safety certificate is required.

From 5 November 2010, section 246AP of the BA has required building certifiers to give the Department of Infrastructure and Planning details of final inspection certificates and certificates of classification for regulated pools within five days of issuing the certificate. At present, the approved way of giving these details to the department is to send a copy of the certificate and a letter advising whether the pool is a shared or non-shared pool.

In the coming weeks, once the register is enabled, building certifiers will be required to input this information directly into the register at [www.dip.qld.gov.au/poolsafetyregister](http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/poolsafetyregister)

## Contact for further information

Department of Infrastructure and Planning

Building Codes Queensland Division

tel +61 7 3239 6369

[buildingcodes@dip.qld.gov.au](mailto:buildingcodes@dip.qld.gov.au)

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