

POOL FENCING

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



All new swimming pools and spas in Australia must adhere to the Swimming pool safety Australian standard AS1926.1-2012 and have a continuous safety barrier maintained by the pool owner that restricts access by young children (defined as under the age of five years) to the pool. A pool which is 300mm deep or greater and/or has a filtration system comes under this category.

For existing pools which predate July 1993 the property owner must comply with the old Swimming Pools (Safety) Act 1972 and ensure the pool is enclosed by a fence, wall or building or any combination of these, to restrict access by young children into the pool area. Since 1 October 2008 all existing pools on properties which are put up for sale are required to have up to date child safety barriers in place before the property can be sold.

FENCE/BARRIER SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- › The following fencing/barrier requirements need to be met to comply with AS1926.1-2012:
- › It shall restrict access into the pool area by young children.
- › It shall be a permanent structure.
- › At no point may there be any gaps greater than 100mm.
- › Objects or level changes that would otherwise reduce the height of a fence shall not be located within 500mm of the fence.
- › It shall be at least 1200mm in height (on opposite side to pool area).
- › When less than 1800mm in height, it must be located such that there is a zoned area called the Non-climbable Zone (NCZ) consisting of a 900mm radius (continuous along entire length) where children cannot climb/crawl over the barrier by using steps, hand/foot holds, pot plants, or any other climbable objects. (Refer to Figure 1 for more detailed explanation).
- › Any property boundary fence used to enclose a pool is to be at least 1800mm high on the side that faces the pool, with a 900mm radius zone at the top inside of the fence. It may be climbable on the other side (Refer to Figure 2 for more detailed explanation).

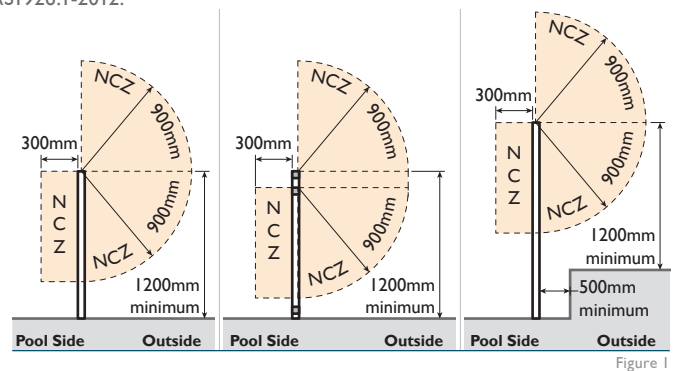


Figure 1

- › Between 1200-1800mm in height with a top surface width greater than 50mm, intersecting with the boundary's NCZ, shall have a height increase up to 1800mm (minimum) not less than 900mm from the intersecting points of both fences/barriers. (Figure 2 point A).
- › Between 1200-1800mm in height with a top surface width of 50mm or less, intersecting with a boundary, the fences/barriers must meet at an angle no less than 45°. (Figure 2 point B)
- › Between 1200-1800mm in height and intersects with an internal fence/barrier of at least 1800mm height at an angle greater than 90° creates NCZ areas which extend 900mm beyond that intersection. (Figure 2 point C).

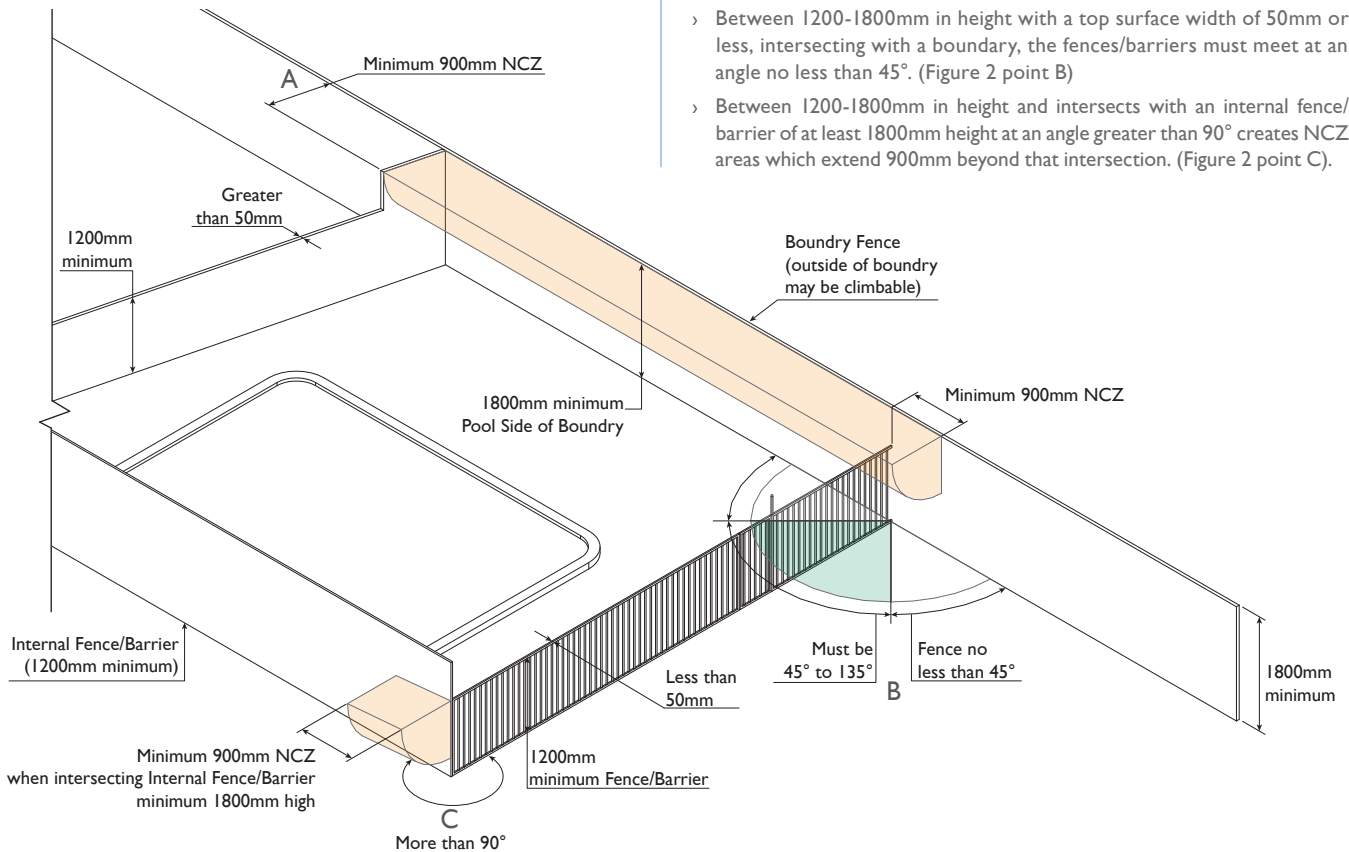
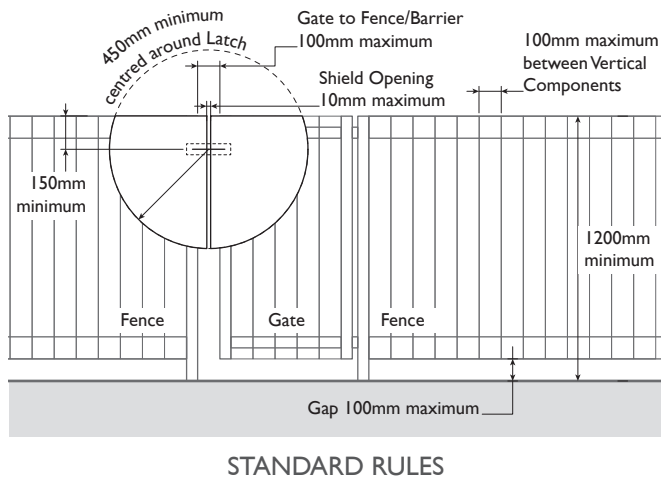


Figure 2

GATE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements need to be met for gates to pool areas in order to comply with AS1926.1-2012:

- › They shall swing outwards from the pool area.
- › They shall self-close from any possible position.
- › They are fitted with a self-latching device set at least 1500mm above ground level on either side or be located on the pool side in such a position that it will be necessary to reach over or through, at not less than 1200mm above ground level or with a 450mm minimum radius shield around the lock (Refer to Figure 3 for examples).



- › For glass gates as long as the gate and fence is minimum 1200mm high and solid with no gaps greater than 10mm around the gate, then a latch may be located on the pool side of the gate at a point lower than 150mm from the top of the gate.

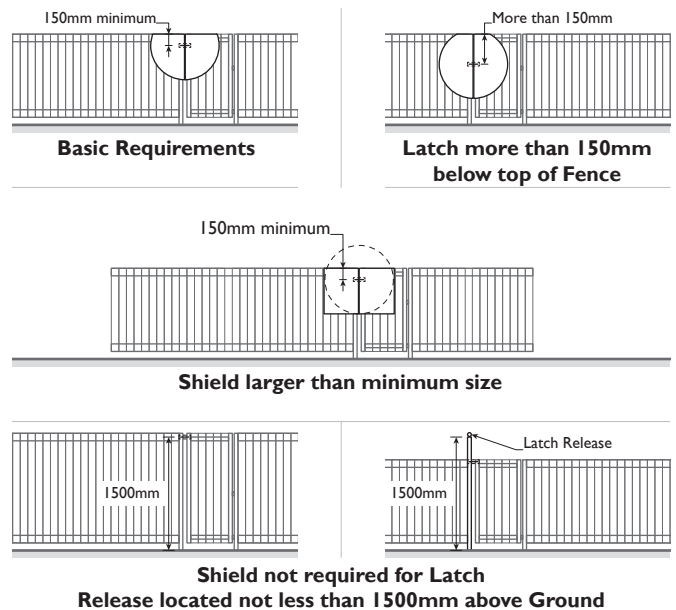


Figure 3

At no stage are pool gates to be propped open. Pool gates shall always be maintained in a fully closed and latched position

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- › Perforated/mesh material used as a pool fence shall comply with the following:
 - › Barriers/fencing shall be installed in such a manner so that a 25kg weight can be supported off it at any point along the top without reducing the overall height from ground to less than 1200mm.
 - › Barrier/fencing shall withstand a vertical lift force of 10.2kg along the bottom of the barrier at any point without creating a gap greater than 100mm.
 - › Minimum height of 1200mm for barrier/fence with holes/gaps/slits less than 13mm.
 - › Minimum height of 1800mm for barrier/fence with holes/gaps/slits greater than 13mm but less than 100mm.
- › The surface beneath the barrier/fence shall be permanent and not easily removed or eroded by a child, animal or the weather.
- › The sides of an above-ground pool can be accepted as being part of a pool safety barrier, provided they comply with the Standard and climbable objects are kept clear of the pool wall at all times. However a permanent barrier must still be provided around the ladder or designated access point. Removal of ladder is not an acceptable solution.
- › Window's which can be opened, are less than 1800mm above the floor level on the pool side and provide direct access from the house to the pool area, must have one of the following:
 - › Bars or mesh screen with the distance between the bars or mesh being no greater than 100mm.
 - › Bars or screen shall only be removable using tools.
 - › A mechanism limiting the size of the window opening to maximum 100mm.

- › House doors are not to provide direct access to the outdoor pool area. For an indoor pool (fully enclosed by walls and roofed) or the door accessing the indoor part of an indoor/outdoor pool, the following must apply:
 - › Be fitted with a self-closing device, operating from any door position.
 - › NOT have pet doors included in the door.
 - › Only open away from the pool area.
 - › Be fitted with a self-latching device located at least 1500mm above floor level.
 - › A NCZ of at least 1200mm in all directions is required around the latch release.
- › A spa cover isn't deemed as an effective barrier for safety as there is no subsequent standard's for spa covers.
- › A balcony that protrudes into the non-climbable zone of a pool fence shall be fitted with a balustrade that complies with the same requirements as the pool fence (Refer to Figure 4).

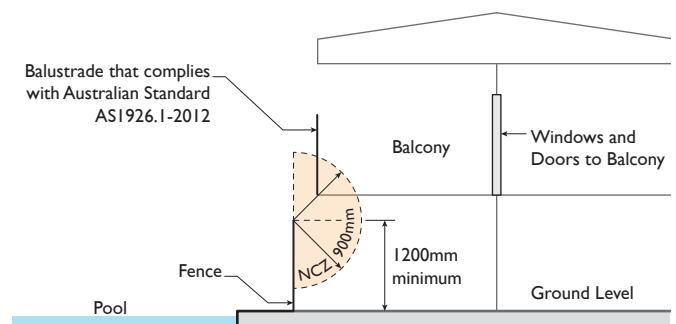


Figure 4



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