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# Australian Standard<sup>®</sup> 1926—1986

## FENCES AND GATES FOR PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS

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Building Surveyors Institute of New South Wales  
Citizens Private Swimming Pool Safety Committee  
Confederation of Australian Industry  
Council of Australasian Spa and Pool Associations Ltd  
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*This standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 85224.*

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AMENDMENT No 1  
to  
AS 1926—1986  
FENCES AND GATES FOR PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS

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REVISED TEXT

*SUMMARY:* This amendment applies to Clause 3.5(b).

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**Page 9. Clause 3.5(b).**

*Delete* existing Clause 3.5(b) including the Note and *substitute* :

- (b) The gate shall close and latch from any position from resting on the latching mechanism to fully open under the natural weight of the gate both before and after the application of a force of 250 N as follows:
- (i) Open the gate and hold it in a position so that it is just ajar, with the components of the latching mechanism on the gate post and the latch-disengaged and clear of each other.
  - (ii) Apply a force of 250 N in a vertical direction down onto the top rail of the gate at a point 100 mm from the outer edge of the locking stile. If the design of the gate precludes access to the top rail at that point, the force may be applied closer to the locking stile of the gate.
  - (iii) After 30 s remove the force and check the operation of the gate and the latching mechanism.

NOTE: This test is intended to indicate whether the automatic closing and latching mechanism is likely to remain effective after the gate has been subject to deflection under its own weight or by children swinging on it.

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

# FENCES AND GATES FOR PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS

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## PREFACE

This edition of this standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Swimming Pool Fences to supersede AS 1926—1979.

The standard establishes safety requirements for design, construction and performance of fences and gates for swimming pools of the types normally installed for private use.

Statistical evidence to date shows that the majority of drownings in private swimming pools involve children up to 5 years of age, and particularly those in the 1 to 4 years age group. For that 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 fencing.

It should be noted that the provisions of this standard relate to fencing that is intended to be child resistant, but not child proof.

The requirements are established with the intention of leaving a high degree of flexibility to the consumer in the choice of fencing, desirable aesthetics and cost.

Appendix C gives a broad guide to some of the key construction criteria which need to be met by some of the more common types of fencing, in order to comply with the requirements of the standard.

Guidance on the effective use of fencing in protecting children from pool hazards is given in AS 2818, Guide to Swimming Pool Safety. A specification for gate units for private swimming pools is set out in AS 2820, which is intended for use by manufacturers who are seeking certification of their products under the SAA Standards Mark Certification Scheme.

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## STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

for

## FENCES AND GATES FOR PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS

## SECTION 1. SCOPE, APPLICATION AND DEFINITIONS

**1.1 SCOPE.** This standard specifies requirements for design, construction and performance of fences and gates intended to inhibit the access of young children to private swimming pools.

NOTE: A standard for gate units for private swimming pools (AS 2820) has been published. That standard is intended for use by manufacturers of pool gates when seeking approval to use the Standards Mark in relation to their products. It is not intended for use by householders or regulatory bodies when assessing private pool fence installations. In such cases this standard should be used.

**1.2 APPLICATION.** The standard applies to fences and gates intended for use in relation to private swimming pools associated with dwellings, flats, home units, schools, motels, hospitals, institutions and the like.

**1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.** The following standards are referred to in this standard:

AS 1170.2	SAA Loading Code—Part 2, Wind Forces
AS 2818	Guide to Swimming Pool Safety
AS 2820	Gate Units for Private Swimming Pools

**1.4 DEFINITIONS.** For the purpose of this standard the following definitions apply:

**1.4.1 Private swimming pool**—any privately owned excavation or structure capable of being filled with water to a depth greater than 300 mm, and primarily intended to be used for swimming, wading or paddling.

**1.4.2 Young child**—a child under the age of 5 years.

**1.4.3 Fence**—the assembly of components, natural or otherwise, which forms the intended barrier to the pool, exclusive of gates.

NOTE: The fence includes items such as posts and panels, constructed or natural walls, and sides of buildings where they form part of the intended barrier.

**1.4.4 Gate**—any portion of the fencing that is designed to provide an access way through the intended barrier.

**1.4.5 Fencing**—fence and associated gate(s).

**1.4.6 Inside of the fencing**—that side of a fence or gate which faces the pool area. Conversely, the outside of a fence or gate is that side which faces away from the pool area.

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