



# Building Newsflash

## ***Queensland Development Code - Part 22 Child Care Centres P22 Food preparation facilities & P25 Equipment and chemical safety***

### **Purpose**

To provide direction to building certifiers when assessing compliance of existing licensed school age care centres with Part 22 of the Queensland Development Code (Part 22) for the purposes of Child Care Act 2002 (CCA).

### **Background**

In September 2003 the CCA became law. Under section 187 of the CCA existing school aged care services have until 31 August 2008 to demonstrate compliance with the building requirements (i.e. the requirements of Part 22 of the QDC).

To assist a licensee in demonstrating the premise complies with the requirements of the CCA, building certifiers may be asked to issue a written document evidencing compliance with Part 22 of the QDC.

Child Care Resource Officers of the Department of Communities when assessing school age care services for the purposes of monitoring licensing requirements, consider the safety and suitability of the premise in the context of the needs, ages and number of children to whom care is being provided.

### **Legislation**

*Queensland Development Code Part 22*

*Child Care Act 2002*

*Child Care Regulation 2003*

### **Interpretation**

#### **Performance criterion 22 - Food preparation facilities**

P22 sets out the requirements for food preparation facilities in a school age care service.

The Department of Communities does not require a school age care service to include a kitchen provided in a separate room with barriers and doors to AS 1926.1-1993 to prevent unauthorised access. (Many school age care services will feature a kitchen at the end of the room including a stove or oven to allow for cooking experiences for the children. Unlike long day care centres that accommodate young children, school age care service accommodate school age children.)

#### **Performance criterion 25 Equipment and chemical safety**

P25 (Equipment and chemical safety) in school age care services is not intended to be applied to kitchens in the premises. It is intended for other safety matters at the premise including access to items that may include parts that heat such as

hot water systems and any accessible heating elements of air air-conditioning units where a child may suffer burns. P25 is also intended to ensure that storage facilities are provided for keeping poisonous substances away from children.

A kitchen in a school age care service may form part of a greater indoor play space. Appliances such stoves and ovens must be capable of being turned off at the wall and equipment like zip water heaters must be capable of being emptied prior to occupation to ensure safety of children using the service.

### **Contact for further information**

Please contact a Child Care Resource Officer of the Department of Communities for further information. Assistance to locate your nearest Department of Communities Service Centre may be obtained by contacting the Child Care Information Service on 1800 637 711 or if in Brisbane 3224 4225.

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