



Building newsflash number 450

Commencement of new pool safety laws and regional swimming pool safety inspector courses

Purpose

To advise the new pool safety laws commence on 1 December 2010 and that extra swimming pool safety inspector training courses are being offered in four regional locations.

Background

The Queensland Government has introduced Australia's toughest pool safety laws as a result of the most comprehensive review of Queensland's pool safety laws in nearly 20 years. The new pool safety laws aim to further reduce the incidences of drowning and serious immersion injuries of young children in swimming pools. The new laws are being implemented in stages—some provisions have already commenced.

The *Building Act 1975* (BA) requires a person who performs pool safety inspection functions to be licensed by the Pool Safety Council as a pool safety inspector. The functions of pool safety inspectors include inspecting regulated pools to decide whether to give a pool safety certificate, giving pool safety certificates and giving nonconformity notices.

Individuals applying to the Pool Safety Council for a pool safety inspector licence must have a certificate of competency from an eligible course provider. They must also have passed the department's pool safety inspector test and have the required professional indemnity insurance.

Issues

Commencement dates for new pool safety laws

The commencement dates for the new Acts passed to implement stage 2 of the pool safety reforms are:

- *Building and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2010*
 - most sections commenced on 5 July 2010
 - sections 246AH, 246AP, 246AQ, 246AR, 289 and the definitions for 'pool safety inspectors register' and 'regulated pool register' are proposed to commence on 5 November 2010
 - the remainder will commence on 1 December 2010.
- *Building and Other Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) 2010*
 - all swimming pool safety related provisions will commence on 1 December 2010.

Previous newsflashes have advised of new regulations that have been passed to support the new Acts and further information will be published through Newsflashes in the coming weeks.

Individuals who have successfully completed an approved course and passed the pool safety inspector test can now apply for a licence using forms 27A and 27B. Licensed pool safety inspectors may now inspect regulated pools and issue nonconformity notices where pools do not comply. Pool safety certificate numbers will be available for purchase from 5 November. However, certificates will need to be manually issued and entered on the pool safety register when it is functional, which is expected by mid-November 2010. Inspectors may contact the department regarding the purchase of certificate numbers once they are licensed.

Licensed building certifiers can, however, continue to issue final inspection certificates and certificates of classification for complying pools. Section 246AN of the BA allows these to be used instead of pool safety certificates.

Regional delivery of the swimming pool safety inspector course

AssentTECS is now offering extra courses in the following locations:

- Longreach 1 to 4 November 2010
- Mt Isa 8 to 11 November 2010
- Roma 15 to 18 November 2010
- Rockhampton 22 to 25 November 2010.

Interested persons are encouraged to enrol now, as courses may not be offered in these areas again in the near future. Local Government Officers can enrol using the department's training subsidy package which offers the following funding assistance:

- Local Governments with 50 000 residents or less—funding for one officer to undertake a swimming pool safety inspector training course approved by the Pool Safety Council.
- Local Governments with more than 50 000 residents—funding for one officer to undertake a swimming pool safety inspector training course approved by the Pool Safety Council if the Local Government funds another officer to undertake an approved swimming pool safety inspector training course.

To enrol in the four day course, please contact AssentTECS now at:

AssentTECS

tel +61 7 3871 2539

atecs@bigpond.net.au

www.AssentTECS.com.au

Contact for further information

Department of Infrastructure and Planning

Building Codes Queensland Division

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