



Most barriers don't fail inspection over one big problem. They fail over small things: a hinge that's gone slack, a pot plant against the fence, a latch that doesn't quite catch. Work through the checks below, then book a licensed inspection for anything you can't fix or aren't sure about.

**This is a self-check, not a compliance inspection.** It doesn't replace an assessment by a QBCC-licensed pool safety inspector against the pool safety standard, Queensland Development Code Mandatory Part 3.4. Only a licensed pool safety inspector can issue a Form 23 Pool Safety Certificate.

## Step 1: know what applies to your pool

|                                    |                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>One standard, no date bands</b> | QDC MP 3.4 applies to every regulated pool in Queensland regardless of when it was built. There is no grandfathering                                    |
| <b>Underlying standards</b>        | QDC MP 3.4 prescribes AS 1926.1-2007 and AS 1926.2-2007. Later versions of the Australian Standard do not apply in Queensland                           |
| <b>Which pools are covered</b>     | Any pool or spa capable of holding water 300 mm deep or more, on land with a Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 building, a movable dwelling park or a residential park |
| <b>Portable wading pools</b>       | Exempt only if all three apply: 300 mm deep or less, 2000 L or less, and no filtration system                                                           |
| <b>Old exemptions</b>              | Pool fencing exemptions granted before 30 November 2015 are no longer valid, other than disability exemptions                                           |

Queensland is the simplest of the three states to self-assess, because one standard applies to every pool. It is also the strictest on two points that catch people out: no direct-access door from a building into an outdoor pool area, and a prescriptive CPR sign. Both are covered below.

## Registration & Certificates

5 checks

Registration is free and mandatory    Certificate: 2 years non-shared, 1 year shared

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Is your pool registered on the QBCC regulated pools register?<br><i>If no: register it at <a href="http://qbcc.qld.gov.au">qbcc.qld.gov.au</a>. Registration is free and failing to register is an offence. Each pool on a property must be registered separately.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Selling or leasing? Do you hold a current Form 23 Pool Safety Certificate, or a Form 17 or Form 11 building certificate?<br><i>If no: book an inspection. Certificates are valid 2 years for a non-shared pool and 1 year for a shared pool.</i>                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| If your pool is shared, is the certificate displayed near the main entrance or the pool gate?<br><i>If no: display it. Shared-pool certificates must be displayed conspicuously.</i>                                                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Bought a property with a Form 36 attached? Are you inside the 90 days from settlement?<br><i>If no: book an inspection now. The 90-day period cannot be extended under any circumstance.</i>                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Holding a nonconformity notice? Have you asked the same inspector to re-inspect within 3 months?<br><i>If no: book the re-inspection. You also can't engage a different inspector within that window without QBCC approval.</i>                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

## Fence & Barrier

9 checks

1200 mm minimum height    900 mm non-climbable zone    1800 mm for an inside NCZ

|                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Is the barrier at least 1200 mm high, measured from ground level, all the way around?<br><i>If no: raise or replace any section under 1200 mm.</i>               | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the gap between the bottom of the barrier and the ground 100 mm or less?<br><i>If no: pave, fill or lower the gap to 100 mm or less.</i>                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are vertical members such as palings, rods or wires no more than 100 mm apart?<br><i>If no: close the gaps to 100 mm or less.</i>                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are horizontal rails on the climbable side at least 900 mm apart, so they can't be used as a ladder?<br><i>If no: reposition or shield the horizontal rails.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Is there a 900 mm non-climbable zone around the entire barrier, arcing both up and down from the barrier? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: clear the zone. The NCZ goes on the outside for any barrier under 1800 mm high.*

Is the barrier free of any object with a substantially horizontal surface over 10 mm in the NCZ: furniture, BBQs, taps, pot plants, lattice, trellis, retaining walls, climbable trees? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: remove, relocate or shield it. This is the single most common reason existing pools fail.*

Where a boundary or dividing fence forms part of the barrier, is it at least 1200 mm with a clear NCZ on the neighbour's side, or at least 1800 mm with the NCZ on your side? ☐ Yes ☐ No

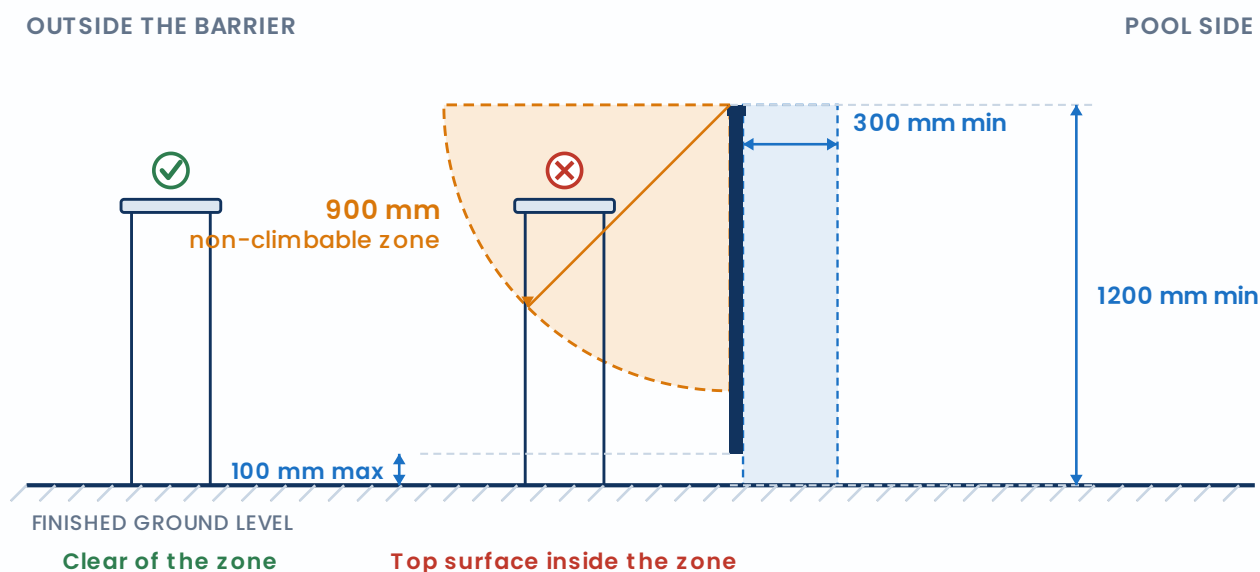
*If no: raise the fence to 1800 mm or more and keep the NCZ on your side. You can't control what a neighbour puts against their fence, so the 1800 mm option is usually the safer choice.*

Is the barrier in good condition, with no rust holes, missing pickets, detached panels or loose fixings? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: repair or replace the damaged sections.*

Does the barrier resist an average adult pushing firmly at its weakest points? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: repair or replace any section without enough strength and rigidity.*



**Figure.** The 900 mm non-climbable zone, measured as an arc from the top of the barrier. In Queensland the zone extends both up and down from the barrier, and nothing with a substantially horizontal surface over 10 mm may sit inside it.

## Gates & Latches

5 checks

Self-closing and self-latching    Never opens towards the pool    1500 mm and 1400 mm rules

Does the gate self-close and self-latch when released from every open position? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: adjust or replace the closer and the hinges, then test it from a fully open, half open and just-ajar start.*

Does the gate open away from the pool area? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: rehang the gate so it does not open towards the water.*

Is the underside of the latch release at least 1500 mm above ground AND at least 1400 mm above the highest lower rail, or shielded in compliance with the standard? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: raise the release, remove the rail that gives a leg-up, or fit a compliant shield. Both measurements have to be satisfied.*

Once closed, does the latch hold firm when you pull the gate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

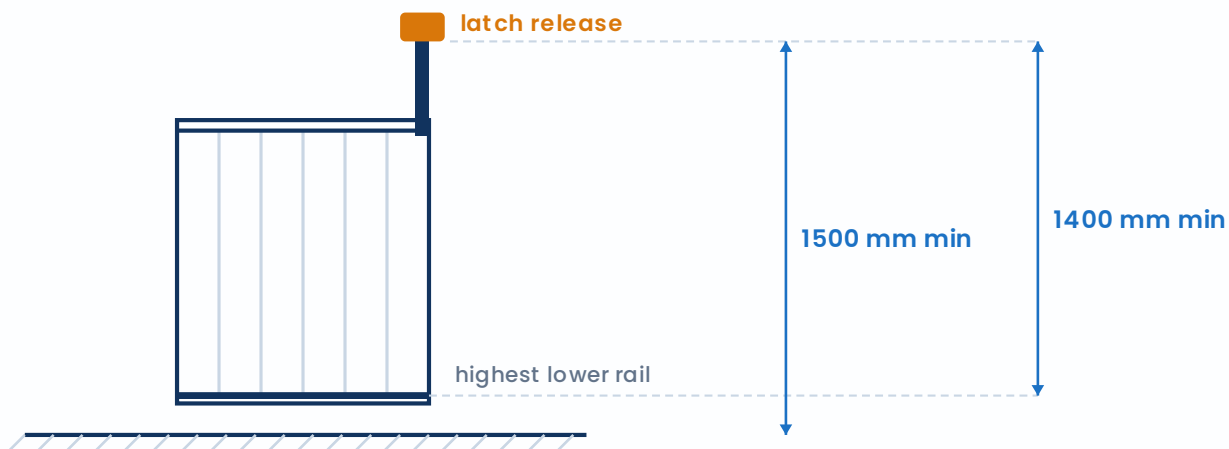
*If no: repair or replace the latch.*

Are all gates and doors giving access to the pool kept securely closed when not in use? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: close them every time. In Queensland this obligation falls on whoever uses the gate, not just the owner.*

### Both measurements apply at the same time

1500 mm above ground AND 1400 mm above the highest lower rail



**Meeting only one of the two is still a fail.**

**Figure.** Queensland is the only state that applies two latch measurements at once. Both have to be met.

## Doors, Windows & Balconies

4 checks

### No direct access door to an outdoor pool

Is there no door from the house, garage or any other building giving direct access to the pool area? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: install a compliant barrier between the building and the pool. Queensland does not accept a self-closing child-resistant door as a barrier for an outdoor pool. If a complying barrier is genuinely impracticable, apply to your council for an impracticability exemption.*

Are windows opening into the pool area restrained or screened so a child can't get through? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: fit a compliant restrictor or a fixed security screen.*

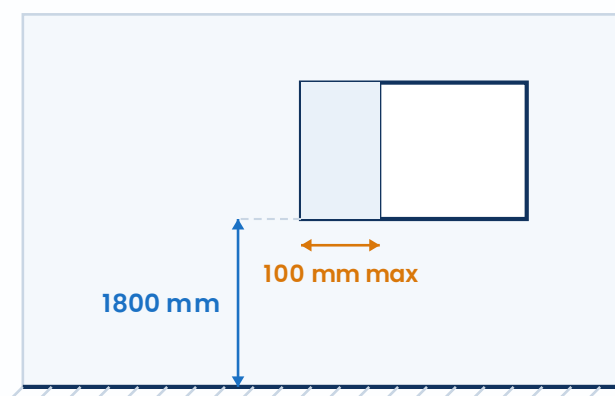
Do balconies, decks or landings overlooking the pool area give no climbable access into it? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: shield or extend the barrier so the elevated structure can't be used to get in.*

Indoor pools only: does the door self-close and self-latch, with the release out of a child's reach? ☐ Yes ☐ No

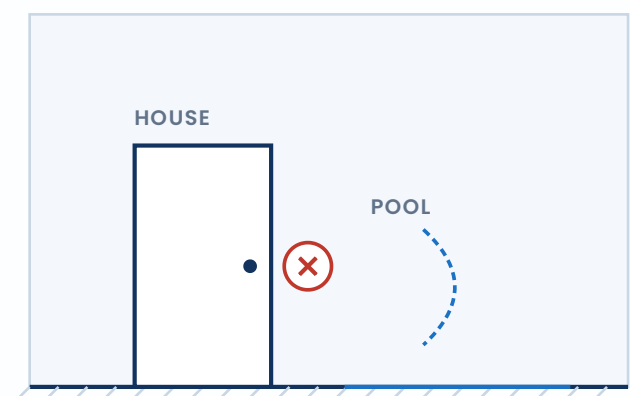
*If no: install or adjust a compliant doorset.*

### Windows opening into the pool area



Sill 1800 mm up, or the opening restrained to 100 mm with a fastener that only comes off with a tool.

### No direct access from a building



Queensland does not accept a child-resistant door as a barrier for an outdoor pool. Fence between the two.

**Figure.** The direct-access door ban is the single most expensive non-compliance in Queensland.

## CPR Sign

4 checks

**Mandatory** 300 mm x 300 mm minimum ANZCOR Guideline 8

Is a CPR sign displayed conspicuously near the pool, where it is easily visible?

☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: install one. A CPR sign is mandatory at every regulated pool in Queensland.*

Is it at least 300 mm x 300 mm?

☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: replace it. Undersized signs are a straightforward fail.*

Is it made of durable, weatherproof material and still clear and legible?

☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: replace faded, cracked or sun-bleached signs.*

Does it clearly state what to do in an emergency and show CPR procedures in line with ANZCOR Guideline 8 (January 2016)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: replace the sign with a current-guideline version.*

## Around The Pool & Doing Work

4 checks

**Trim before an inspection** Temporary fence if the barrier comes down

Have trees, shrubs and vegetation near the barrier been trimmed of any thick, substantially horizontal branches within the NCZ?

☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: trim the horizontal branches. Dense, spiky or fragile foliage is allowed to stay if a child can't climb it, but you're responsible for monitoring it.*

Are climbable items kept permanently clear of the fence line, not just moved before an inspection?

☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: find a permanent storage spot. A pot plant moved back the day after an inspection is still non-compliance.*

If any part of the barrier is removed or opened up for works, is a temporary fence installed straight away?

☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: install a compliant temporary fence. It can be used for up to 3 months, and further 3-month periods only with written approval.*

Planning barrier work over \$11,000 in labour and materials as an owner? Do you have a QBCC owner-builder permit?

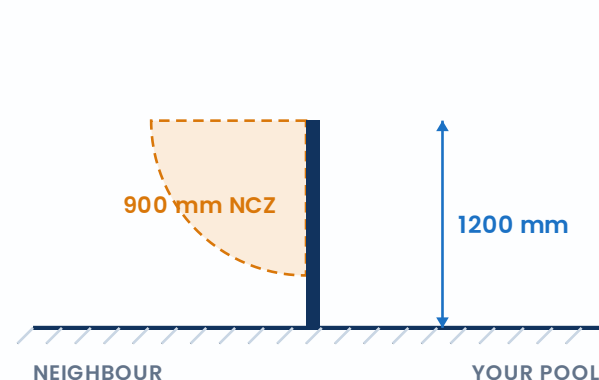
☐ Yes ☐ No

*If no: apply for the permit. Work of \$3,300 or more done by anyone other than the owner also needs a QBCC licence.*

### Option A: 1200 mm boundary fence



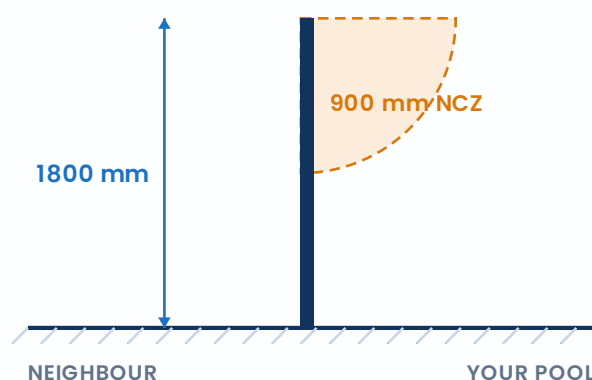
NCZ sits on the neighbour's side



### Option B: 1800 mm boundary fence



NCZ sits on your side, where you control it



**Figure.** Both boundary options are compliant. The 1800 mm version is usually the safer choice, because the non-climbable zone then sits on your side where you control what goes near it.

## Beyond The Barrier

3 checks

**Not assessed at inspection, but it's what saves a child**

Is a child under 5 always within arm's reach in the water, supervised by an adult and not an older sibling?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is your CPR knowledge current, and does everyone in the household know where the pump shut-off is?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Are toys and flotation aids stored away from the pool between uses, so they don't draw a child to the fence?

☐ Yes ☐ No

## Ticked a "No"? Let's fix it properly.

Book a Queensland pool safety inspection and Form 23 certificate. QBCC-licensed inspectors across Brisbane, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and regional QLD.

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Sources: Queensland Building Act 1975; Building Regulation 2021; QDC MP 3.4 Swimming pool barriers; Guideline for pool owners and property agents (2024); AS1926.1-2007; qbcc.qld.gov.au. Current as at August 2026. Rules change; confirm current requirements with your regulator or a licensed inspector.