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SAFETY LADDERS FOR ABOVE-GROUND SWIMMING POOLS



STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Incorporated by Royal Charter

THE FOLLOWING SAFETY, INDUSTRIAL, CONSUMER AND GOVERNMENTAL organizations were officially represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this standard:

Australian Federation of Consumer Organizations
Citizens Private Swimming Pool Safety Committee
Confederation of Australian Industry
Council of Australasian Swimming Pool Associations
Health Commission of New South Wales
Local Government Association of New South Wales
Municipal Association of Victoria
National Safety Council of Australia
Water Safety Council of New South Wales

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In order to keep abreast of progress in industry, Australian standards are regularly reviewed. Suggestions for improvement to published standards, addressed to the head office of the Association, are welcomed.

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD SPECIFICATION

**SAFETY LADDERS
FOR ABOVE-GROUND
SWIMMING POOLS**

AS 2233—1979

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PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Safety Ladders for Above Ground Pools. The proposal for the standard came from the Association's committee responsible for the preparation of AS 1926, Fences and Gates for Private Swimming Pools, as it was felt that in the case of larger above-ground swimming pools, although the walls of the pool may form a barrier that will prevent children from climbing into the pool, the ladder that gives access to the pool performs a similar function to that of a gate in a pool fence complying with AS 1926.

Most safety ladders for above-ground pools require a positive conscious action on the part of adult pool users to render the ladder 'safe' and make the pool inaccessible to young children, e.g. removing the ladder from the pool after use, or folding the ladder up out of the reach of young children. However, the function of such ladders may be compared to that of a non-sprung gate which will remain open unless closed after use. The committee felt that it was desirable to prepare a specification for safety ladders in which the safety function would be more effective than this and would be comparable to that of a self-closing and latching gate. Accordingly, this standard has been prepared in the hope that it will encourage the wider manufacture and use of effective safety ladders.

Because the main objective of this standard is to specify requirements for the safety functions of above-ground pool ladders, the standard does not specify in detail the constructional requirements for these ladders beyond basic dimensions and strength. Also, because the operating requirements are expressed in terms only of general principles which may be met by a number of different practical arrangements, it was not felt to be practicable to specify test methods for the safety functions of safety ladders.

It is emphasized, however, that the use of safety ladders complying with this specification does not eliminate the need for continued adult care and supervision of young children in the vicinity of swimming pools. Guidance as to the best use of safety measures such as ladders, fencing, pool covers, etc is given in SAA MP33, SAA Guide to Swimming Pool Safety.

This standard may require reference to the following Australian standards:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| AS 1926 | Fences and Gates for Private Swimming Pools |
| AS 2020 | Safety Covers for Private Swimming Pools and Wading Pools (for the Protection of Children 5 years of Age and Under). |

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard Specification
for
SAFETY LADDERS FOR ABOVE-GROUND
SWIMMING POOLS**

**SECTION 1. SCOPE, APPLICATION AND
DEFINITIONS**

1.1 SCOPE. This specification sets out requirements for the design, construction and performance of devices incorporating ladders, which are designed to automatically inhibit access by young children to above-ground pools, but which will allow adults or older children to gain access to such pools.

1.2 APPLICATION. The specification is applicable to devices intended for use to provide access to above-ground pools of wall height 1.2 m or greater and which are not fenced in accordance with AS 1926 or provided with a cover in accordance with AS 2020. The specification is not applicable to ladders intended for use in in-ground pools.

1.3 DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this specification, the following definitions apply:

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

Above-ground pool—any private swimming pool, the sides of which, in the absence of a ladder, form a barrier equivalent to a fence of height 1.2 m or more, meeting the requirements of AS 1926.

Young children—children of age 5 years or less.