

ADVISORY NOTICE BUILDING

04/15

Advisory Notices are issued to assist in the interpretation of the Development Act 1993

June 2015

TECHNICAL: Swimming pool safety – water recirculation systems – skimmer boxes

The National Construction Code (BCA Volume 2) requires compliance with *Australian Standard 1926.3 – 2010 Swimming pool safety – water recirculation systems*, which prescribes the requirements for skimmer boxes. Both the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (the Department) and the Department for Health and Ageing were actively involved in the development of this standard and adopted it based on the understanding that it continued the requirement for skimmer boxes in South Australia to be fitted with an auxiliary outlet.

The auxiliary outlet, commonly referred to as the 'secondary safety suction' is a branch pipe that connects the skimmer box to an outlet in the pool wall, which is located at least 600mm from the skimmer box. Should the skimmer box become blocked (possibly by part of a child's body), the auxiliary outlet draws water from the pool (rather than the skimmer box itself), thereby reducing the vacuum pressure and the potential for injury.

The Department are aware that there are differing opinions about the need or otherwise for an auxiliary outlet to release the vacuum pressure should the outlet system become blocked and is considering options to clarify the issue. The Department's position is that skimmer boxes should be fitted with an auxiliary outlet complying with clause 6.1.2(b) of *Australian Standard 1926.3 – 2010 Swimming pool safety – water recirculation systems*.

Further information

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