

# Swimming pool and /or spa safety barriers

## How safe is your swimming pool or spa safety barrier? Take our self assessment and see for yourself.

Did you know that all swimming pools and spas in Victoria capable of holding more than 300 mm of water must have well maintained safety barriers around them? A swimming pool is defined as any excavation or structure containing water and used principally for swimming, wading or paddling, including a bathing or wading pool, or spa.

Temporary swimming pools including wading pools, toddler pools, inflatable pools and spas that are not capable of containing a depth of water greater than 300 mm do not require safety barriers but should be emptied after each use. A dam on a rural property, water tanks, streams, rivers and ornamental ponds or fountains are not defined as swimming pools or spas.

Latrobe City Council's building surveyors will carry out random audits on safety barriers. The intent of the safety barrier is to restrict access to a young child under five years old.

A barrier can be a fence, wall, screen or gate. Gates and doors must self-close and self-latch, window openings should be restricted or be fitted with secure screens. The Municipal Building Surveyor can act against people who fail to provide adequate, or maintain existing, safety barriers. Penalties may apply.

Always watch young children around water.

Further information can be obtained from the Victorian Building Authority by accessing the following web site [www.buildingcommission.com.au/consumers/swimming-pool-and-spa-safety-barriers](http://www.buildingcommission.com.au/consumers/swimming-pool-and-spa-safety-barriers)

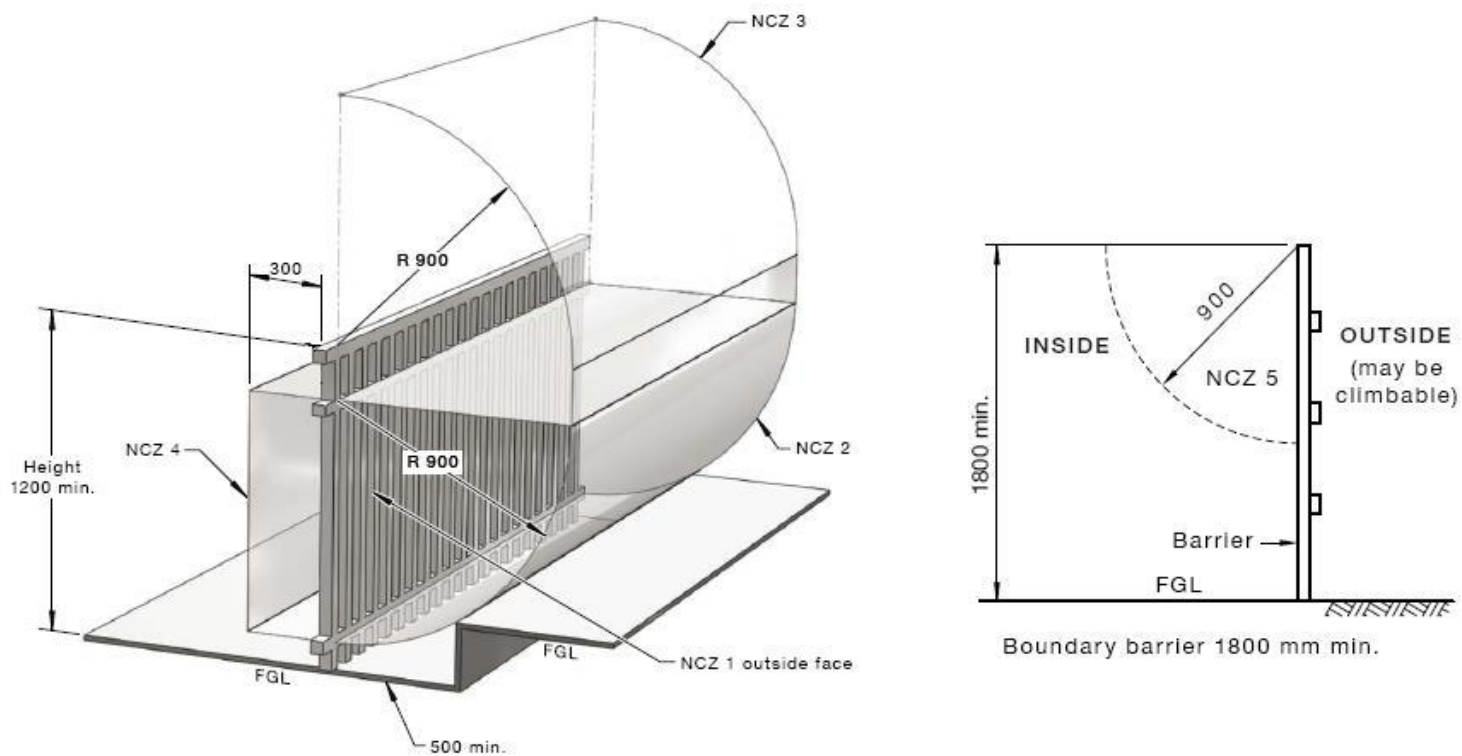
## Explanatory Notes

A Non Climb Zone (NCZ) is the zone on or around a swimming pool safety barrier and running the full length including the gate. It is essential this zone does not contain any objects that may enable young children to climb the barrier.

Where applicable, the following Non Climb Zones are applied to a swimming pool safety barrier. Refer to Figure 1.

- Non Climb Zone 1 is a 900 mm high surface on the outside face of the barrier.
- Non Climb Zone 2 is a 900 mm quadrant extending out from the top of Non Climb Zone 1 on the outside a barrier.
- Non Climb Zone 3 is a 900 mm quadrant extending up from the top of the barrier. Non Climb Zone 3 extends vertically down to the top of Non Climb Zone 1. Please note: Non Climb Zone 3 does not apply to any item or component on or part of the barrier.
- Non Climb Zone 4 is 300 mm deep space on the inside on the barrier that aligns with Non Climb Zone 1.
- Non Climb Zone 5 is a 900 mm quadrant down from the top of the boundary fence on the pool side.

Figure 1 – Location and application of each non climb zone



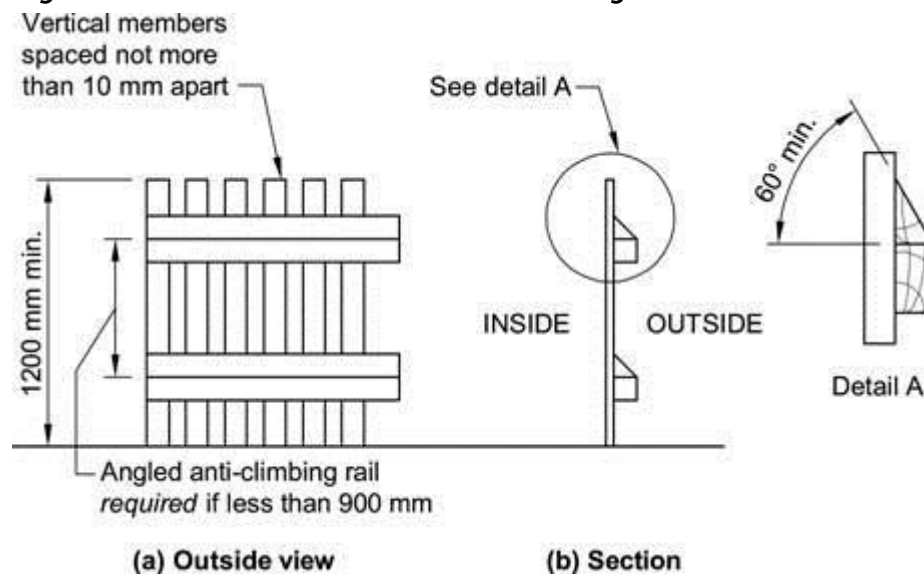
# Self Assessment

Pursuant to Building Regulations 2018, BCA Volume 2 - Part 3.9.3 and AS 1926.1

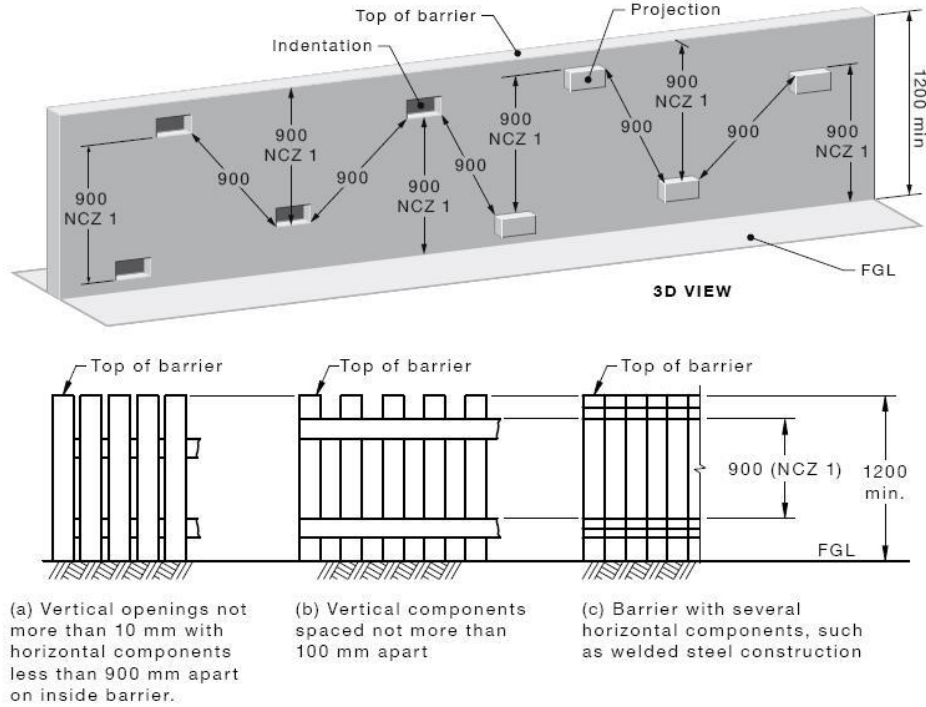
## Safety Barrier/Fence/Wall

	Complies	
	Yes	No
The safety barrier must be a permanent structure with securely fixed components.		
There must be no sharp edges, sharp projections or similar hazards on the safety barrier.		
The top of the safety barrier/fence must be at least 1200 mm above external ground level.		
The clear space between all vertical elements such as posts, pickets or vertical bars must not exceed 100 mm.		
The opening between the bottom of the barrier and the finished ground level must not exceed 100 mm.		
The surface under the barrier must be permanent and not easily removed or eroded by a young child.		
There must be no horizontal projections, indentations or surfaces with a depth greater than 10 mm located within Non Climb Zone 1. Refer to Figure 2 and 3.		
There must be no climbable objects such as tree branches, pot plants, chairs, play or pool equipment located within Non Climb Zone 2, Non Climb Zone 3 or Non Climb Zone 4 (as applicable). Refer to Figure 1.		
Where the safety barrier is constructed on sloping or stepped ground the integrity of all applicable Non Climb Zones must be maintained through any changes of level. Refer to Figure 4		
There must be no level changes, such as steps or retaining walls within 500 mm of the outside of the barrier that would reduce the effective height. Refer to Figure 1.		
Where the barrier is constructed using perforated fence material with openings between 13 mm and 100 mm the fence height must extend to at least 1800 mm.		

Figure 2 – Horizontal members not acting as a hold for climbing

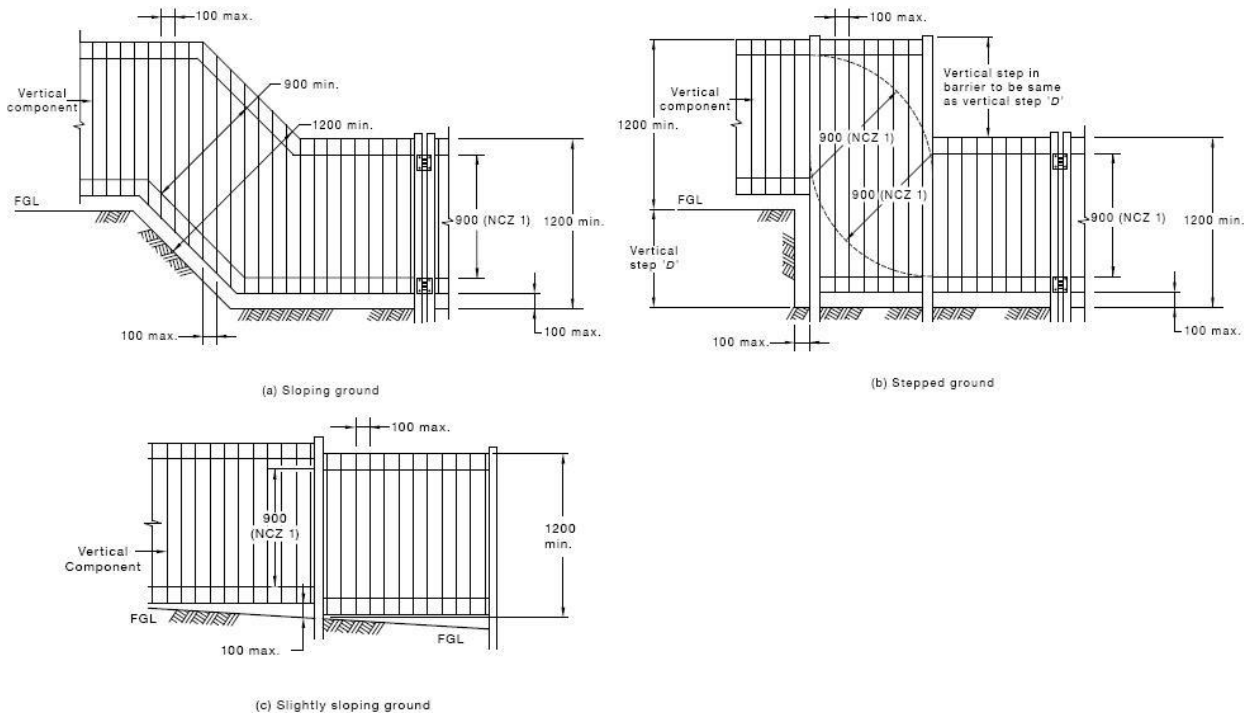


# Figure 3 – spacing of accessible horizontal members, protections or indentations in the safety barrier/fence/wall



DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES

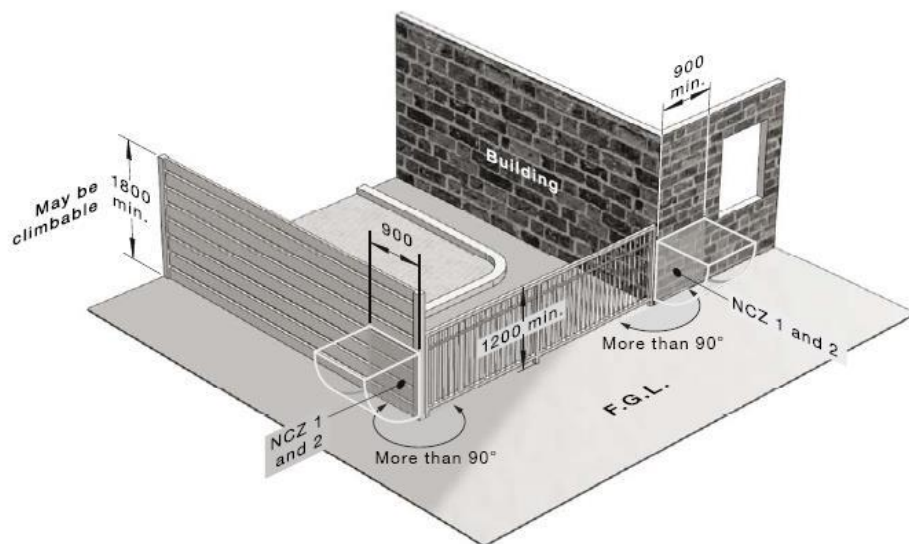
# Figure 4 – Maintaining the integrity of all applicable non climb zones on sloping or stepped ground



## Property Boundary Fencing

	Complies	
	Yes	No
The top of the property boundary fence must be at least 1800 mm above internal ground level.		
There must be no climbable objects such as tree branches, fence rails or pool equipment located within Non Climb Zone 5. Refer to Figure 1.		

Figure 5 – Extension of non climb zones past barrier intersections



## Barrier Intersections

	Complies	
	Yes	No
Non Climb Zones 1 and 2 must be maintained for a distance of 900 mm beyond barrier intersections. Refer to figure 5		
Where a barrier less than 1800 mm intersects a property boundary fence within Non Climb Zone 5 the top rail of the barrier must be less than 50 mm wide.		
Where the top rail of a barrier exceeds 50 mm and it intersects with a property boundary fence within Non Climb Zone 5 the barrier must extend to a minimum height of 1800 mm for 900 mm from the intersection.		

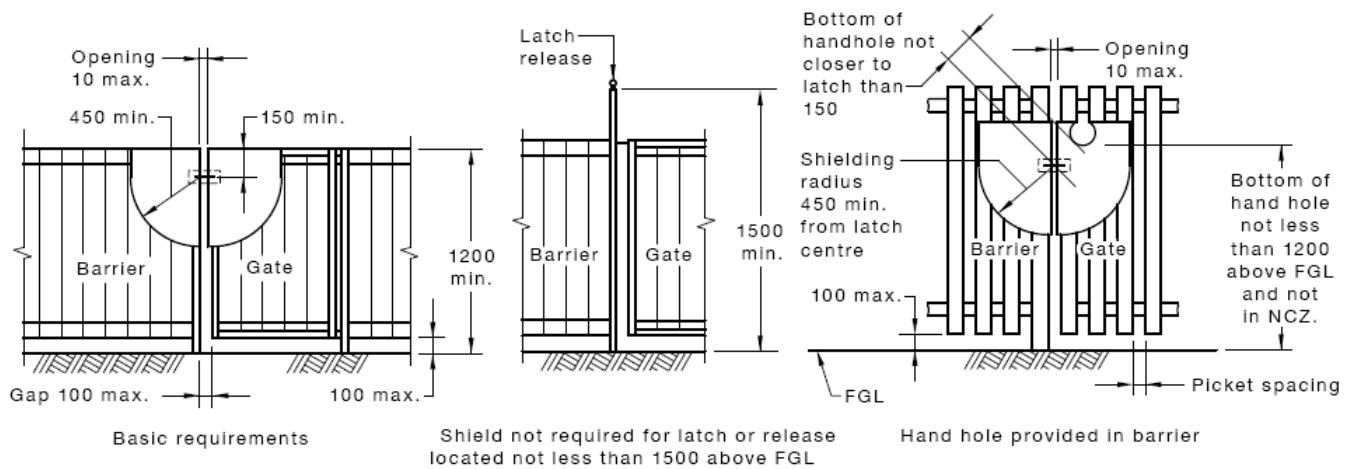
## Gates, fittings and non-shielded latch

	Complies	
	Yes	No
Gates must swing outwards, away from the pool area.		
All gates must be self-closing and self-latching from any position (including resting against the lock or latch) from a stationary start without manual force. Gates must not be propped or held open.		
The gates latching device must not be adjustable without the use of a tool.		
The latch release must be a minimum of 1500 mm above finished ground level.		
If the gate hinges project more than 10 mm on the outside of the safety barrier the top surfaces of the hinges must be at least 900 mm apart or fitted with approved safety caps.		

## Shielding of gate latches

	Complies	
	Yes	No
Latching release must be located on the inside of the gate or barrier.		
Access to the latching release must be over or through the barrier at a minimum height of 1200 mm above external ground level or 1000 mm above any lower horizontal safety barrier components. Refer to Figure 6.		
Latching device must not be less than 150 mm down from the top of the gate or hand hole.		
Latch must be shielded for a minimum of 450 mm around the latch.		
Gap between gate shield and barrier must be less than 10 mm.		

Figure 6 – Location and shielding of gate latches



## Doors - If applicable

	Complies	
	Yes	No
Doors must slide or swing outwards away from the pool area.		
All doors must be self-closing and self-latching from any position (including resting against lock or latch) from a stationary start without manual force. Doors must not be propped or held open.		
The door's latch release device must be a minimum of 1500 mm above finished floor level.		
Non climb zone 1 applies to the outside of a door. The top of Non Climb Zone 1 must be less than 1200 mm above the floor.		

Note: Regulations relating to new and future pool barriers no longer permit doors from dwellings, garages and the like from entering directly into an external pool enclosure.

## Windows with lowest opening point less than 1800 mm above pool side ground level

The window must either be fitted with a securely fixed, rigid mesh screen with opening less than 100 mm that can only be removed with a tool, or the openable part of the window must be limited to opening no more than 100 mm

Complies	
Yes	No

## An above ground pool used as safety barrier, if applicable

Walls of pool must be at least 1200 mm above finished ground level with and no climbable objects located within Non Climb Zone 1, Non Climb Zone 2 and Non Climb Zone 3.

A separate safety barrier that complies with the Safety Barrier/Fence/Wall section must be installed around permanently fixed access ladders or at a designated access point when ladders are removable.

Complies	
Yes	No

## Balcony - If applicable

A balcony that protrudes into a Non Climb Zone must have a balustrade that complies with the Safety Barrier/Fence/Wall section.

Complies	
Yes	No