



Building Newsflash

Amendment of Building Act 1975 Form 17 – Inspection of Pool and Fencing

Purpose

To provide advice to building certifiers on changes to the *Building Act 1975* as a result of the introduction of parts of the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002*. These changes will take effect on 7 February 2003.

Background

The Government recently passed the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002, which resulted in a number of amendments to the Building Act regarding swimming pool fencing.

Legislative provision

An amendment was made to s14 of the Building Act (Outdoor swimming pools must be fenced), which will take effect on 7 February 2003.

Section 14 (2) now reads:

‘(2) Before a person fills the pool with water to a depth of 300 mm or more, the person must ensure—

- (a) fencing that complies with the design, construction and performance standards (the “standards”) prescribed under a regulation is constructed around the pool; and
- (b) a building certifier has, after inspecting the pool and fencing, issued the owner of the land with a certificate in the approved form stating the pool and fencing comply with the requirements for pools and fencing prescribed under a regulation.’

Therefore, the building certifier must inspect and issue a certificate before the pool is filled.

Approved Form

Included with this advice is a copy of the approved Form 17 – Inspection of Pool and Fencing. This form must be used by building certifiers to certify the compliance of pools and fencing in accordance with section 14(2) of the Building Act.

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