

Circular Details	14-07 / 28 March 2014 / A370347
Previous Circular	12-40, 13-53
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff / Specific business areas
Contact	Development Team - 02 4428 4100 - dlg@dlg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information and Implementation

More time to get pools safe before selling or leasing

What's new or changing

- Provisions that require a property with a swimming pool to have a certificate of compliance before it can be sold or leased will now commence on **29 April 2015**. This means that pool owners will have more time to ensure swimming pool barrier compliance prior to the sale or lease of their property.

What this will mean for your council

- Councils should use this additional time to establish and implement their swimming pool inspection program as well as promoting awareness of the requirements that will now commence on 29 April 2015.
- In particular, councils should undertake the mandatory inspections portion of their pool inspection program associated with tourist and visitor accommodation and multi-occupancy properties.

Key points

- The successful 'Be Pool Safe' campaign has increased focus on child safety around backyard pools resulting in positive action by pool owners to improve the safety of backyard swimming pools on a daily basis.
- Council officer feedback indicates that high inspection failure rates mean that it is not uncommon for it to take 3 months from first inspection to the issuing of a compliance certificate.
- The additional work being generated for repairs and upgrades to swimming pool barriers is placing pressure on pool trades and services. Real estate industry representatives want more time to ensure properties with a pool are compliant before selling or leasing.
- Councils can use this additional time to 29 April 2015 to increase awareness of property owners with the new requirements as well as ensuring that council has appropriate systems, processes and resources to respond to requests from property owners for inspections.
- Councils should also conduct the mandatory inspections of swimming pools associated with tourist and visitor accommodation and multi-occupancy properties.

- The Building Professionals Board is establishing a new category of private certifier, which will be in place shortly to enable suitably qualified people to complete a course and offer an inspection service. This will complement council inspections and increase the number of people who can conduct swimming pool inspections.

Where to go for further information

- Further information can be found at www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au or by contacting the Office of Local Government on 4428 4100.



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