

SAFEGUARDS

CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

TOYS & JUVENILE PRODUCTS

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AUSTRALIA SETS MANDATORY LABELLING REQUIREMENTS FOR PORTABLE SWIMMING POOLS


The Consumer Goods (Portable Swimming Pools) Safety Standard 2013 (the safety standard) sets out mandatory labelling requirements for portable swimming pools supplied in Australia. The requirements will become mandatory on 30 March 2014.

The safety standard requires warnings to be displayed on portable swimming pools and their retail packaging. The aim is to warn consumers about drowning hazards. The labelling advises to ensure active adult supervision at all times and to keep children within arms' reach.

In the safety standard, a **portable swimming pool** is a swimming pool that is:

- intended for personal, domestic or household use; and
- one of the following:
 - I. an inflatable swimming pool, of any depth;
 - II. a soft-sided swimming pool, of any depth;
 - III. a rigid-sided swimming pool that is not deeper than 300 mm.

The statements that must be included in the warning messages are dependent on the depth of the swimming pool:

DEPTH OF THE PORTABLE SWIMMING POOL < 300 MM	DEPTH OF THE PORTABLE SWIMMING POOL ≥ 300 MM
<p>“WARNING! Children have drowned in portable swimming pools. Ensure active adult supervision at all times. Do not leave children unsupervised in or around the pool—keep them within arms’ reach. Empty and store safely after use.”</p>	<p>“WARNING! Children have drowned in portable swimming pools. Ensure active adult supervision at all times. Do not leave children unsupervised in or around the pool—keep them within arms’ reach. Pool fencing laws apply to this pool. Consult your local government authority for fencing requirements.”</p>
<p>Portable swimming pools must display a safety sign.</p>  <p>The safety sign must be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. not less than 40 mm in diameter; andb. in blue and white colours, andc. permanently printed or embossed on the portable swimming pool, on a background that provides a distinct contrast to the colour of the background of the safety sign; andd. placed next to the warning message.	

The full text of the legislation can be found at :

<http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/998360>

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