

POOL CHECKLIST

The pool safety requirements as defined by this document apply wherever a pool is situated (e.g. even if the pool is wholly enclosed within a house).



TYPE(S) OF POOL(S) ON THE PROPERTY

Pool(s) on the property	A.	Artificial lake, garden pond or water hazards such as stormwater retention ponds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	
	B.	[Any] pool not capable of holding more than 40 cm of water	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	
	C.	In-ground pool capable of holding more than 40 cm of water	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes (2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	
	D.	Above-ground pool less than 1.2 m high AND capable of holding more than 40 cm of water	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes (2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	
	E.	Above-ground pool 1.2 m high or more <i>(if 'Yes', answer G to M)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	
	F.	Small heated pool (e.g. spa pool, hot tub) <i>(if 'Yes', answer N to P)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	
Above-ground pool 1.2 m high or more	If the answer to <u>ALL</u> the following points (G to M) is 'Yes', the pool is not required to be surrounded by a pool fence:						
	G.	Pool has side walls unclimbable from the outside (smooth vertical side walls), AND	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No (2)	
	H.	pool has no projection or indention greater than 1 cm on its side walls (unless these projections or indentions are at least 90 cm apart vertically), AND	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No (2)	
	I.	pool has no part of its side walls less than 1.2 m above the adjacent ground level, AND	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No (2)	
	J.	pool has no part of its side walls less than 1.2 m above any permanent projection from the ground outside of the pool and within 1.2 m of the walls of the pool, AND	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No (2)	
	K.	pool has no part of its side walls less than 1.2 m above any object standing on the ground outside of the pool and within 1.2 m of the walls of the pool, AND	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No (2)	
	L.	pool has means of accessing the interior of the pool (ladder, etc.) that can be readily removed or made inoperable, AND	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No (2)	

	M. pool has means of accessing the interior of the pool (ladder, etc.) that are removed or made inoperable when the pool is not in use.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No ⁽²⁾
Small heated pool	If the answer to <u>ALL</u> the following points (N to O) is 'Yes', the pool physical barrier can consist only of a pool cover (fence not required) ⁽³⁾:		
	N. Heated pool with a water surface area of 5 m ² or less AND designed for therapeutic or recreational use, AND	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No ⁽²⁾
	O. Top surface of every wall (without cover) at all points not less than 76 cm above the adjacent floor or ground, AND	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No ⁽²⁾
	P. Walls of the pool inhibiting climbing.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No ⁽²⁾

(1) *Not required to comply with the pool safety legislation (**checklist non-applicable**).*

(2) *The pool **MUST be surrounded by a fence compliant with the specifications** defined by this checklist. This requirement applies even if the level of water is maintained to less than 40 cm.*

(3) *When a small heated pool physical barrier consists only of a pool cover, the pool and its cover **MUST at all times be compliant with the specifications** defined by this checklist (see point 1 to 13, on page 4).*

WATER SUPPLY/DRAINAGE

- | | | | |
|------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| i. | Backflow prevention device fitted to whatever means is used to fill the pool ⁽⁴⁾ | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail |
| ii. | Approved discharge from the pool ⁽⁵⁾ | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail |

(4) *For hose-filled pools, the most common device is a hose connection vacuum breaker.*

(5) *Pool water must be drained into an outlet (sewer, not stormwater).*

POOL(S) COMPLIANCE with the pool safety provisions enacted by the Building Act 2004

If any 'Fail' box is ticked in the checklist below then the pool is non-compliant.

A non-compliant pool must be drained immediately and be kept empty of water at all times until the pool is fenced in a manner that complies with the pool safety provisions enacted by the Building Act 2004.

Note: Any existing fencing must be retained around a drained pool to prevent injury from falling.

POOL COVER

Small heated pools ONLY (spa pools, hot tubs)

Yes

N/A

Note:

ONLY applies for a **heated pool** fulfilling **ALL** four conditions below:

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| a. water surface area of 5 m ² or less | Yes | No |
| b. designed for therapeutic or recreational use | Yes | No |
| c. top surface of every wall (without cover) at all points not less than 76 cm above the adjacent floor | Yes | No |
| d. walls of the pool inhibiting climbing | Yes | No |

If **'No'** is ticked on any of the four conditions above then:

- a. **'1' to '13'** (next page) **does not apply**, AND
- b. the heated pool **MUST be surrounded by a fence compliant with the specifications defined by this checklist**, regardless of the presence of a cover.

If **'Yes'** is ticked on the four conditions above then:

- a. **'1' to '13'** (next page) **applies**, AND
- b. **provided that 'Pass' is ticked on ALL the points on next page ('1' to '13')**, the heated pool is **not required to be surrounded by a pool fence**.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|
| 1. | Walls of the pool are vertical or slope outwards at no more than 15° from vertical | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 2. | No external objects or projections within 76 cm of the top edge that could assist climbing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 3. | No projections or indentations on the pool wall itself greater than 1 cm horizontally from the plane of the wall | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 4. | Cover remaining at all times closed and locked when the pool is not in use and full of water | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 5. | Cover firmly held in place with straps fitted with lockable snap fasteners or with fastenings using metal padlocks | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 6. | Lockable snap fasteners with a minimum width of 33 mm on their main body | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 7. | Cover and fasteners well maintained (e.g. UV light affects straps and plastic fasteners) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 8. | Cover able to withstand a load of 20 kg at the centre | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 9. | Cover able to be readily returned to the closed position | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 10. | Top surface of the cover constructed with a slope from the centre to the outside edges | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 11. | Cover has a sign fixed on two opposite sides containing the text
'WARNING: This spa pool cover must be kept locked except when under adult supervision' | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 12. | Warning signs design compliant with Paragraphs 2.2 and 3.2.2 of F8/AS1 ⁽⁶⁾ | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 13. | Warning signs written with black letters not less than 5 mm in height | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |

⁽⁶⁾ *Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods for New Zealand Building Code Clause F8 ('Signs').
See current version of F8/AS1 at <https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/f-safety-of-users/f8-signs/>*

POOL AREA

N/A to small heated pools relying on a COVER

Yes

N/A

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|
| 14. | Confined area containing items used ONLY for activities carried out in relation to the pool or involving the pool | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 15. | No thoroughfare through the pool area | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |

BALCONIES

'16' to '38' (below) **applies to balconies** -

- (a) when the floor of the balcony is **less than 2.4 m vertically** above the immediate pool area; **o**
- (b) when the floor of the balcony is **more than 2.4 m vertically** above the immediate pool area but there are **projections within 1.2 m below** the top of it (such as a wall or landscaping feature) **that could assist a child to climb down.**

'16' to '28' (below) **does not apply to balconies** ⁽⁷⁾ when the floor of the balcony is **more than 2.4 m vertically** above the immediate pool area **and** there are **no projections within 1.2 m below** the top of it (such as a wall or landscaping feature) **that could assist a child to climb down.**

⁽⁷⁾ *Instead, a barrier compliant with Clause F4 may be used.
Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods: <https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/f-safety-of-users/f4-safety-from-falling/>*

FENCE (other than boundary fence) & GATES

May apply to balconies on the property

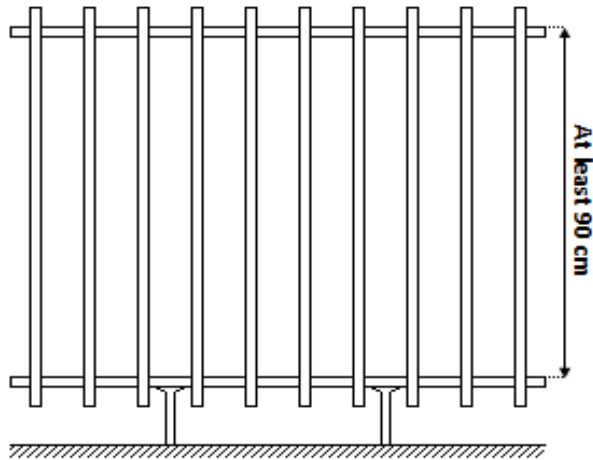
Yes

N/A

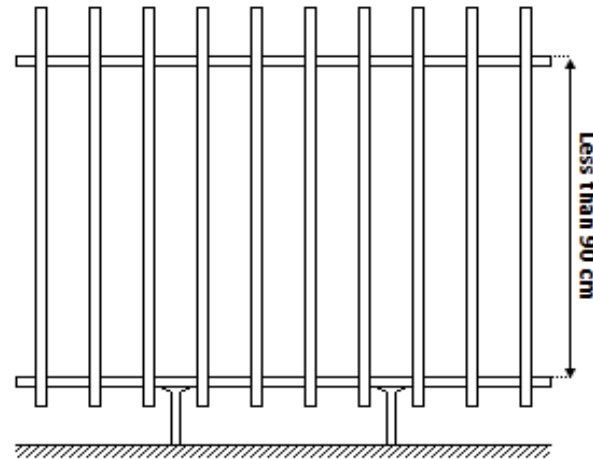
Note: A pool does not have to be fenced on all four sides if the access of children is adequately excluded. E.g. a cliff face or an infinity pool feature where children cannot get access are acceptable.

16.	Rigid permanent structure, strong and made of durable materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> Fail
17.	Gap under fence/gates not greater than 10 cm	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> Fail
18.	Extending at least 1.2 m above the ground on the outside of the pool fence	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> Fail
19.	Extending at least 1.2 m above any permanent projection from the ground outside and within 1.2 m of the pool fence	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> Fail
20.	Extending at least 1.2 m above any object standing on the ground outside and within 1.2 m of the pool fence	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> Fail
21.	Angle between 0 ^o and 15 ^o maximum	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> Fail
22.	Not sloping towards the pool	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> Fail

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 23. | Thin vertical rails not more than 10 cm apart | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| 24. | Vertical boards not more than 1 cm apart | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| 25. | Horizontal boards not more than 1 cm apart | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| 26. | No projection or indention greater than 1 cm on the outside of the fence itself (unless these projections or indentions are at least 90 cm apart vertically) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | |
| 27. | Horizontal supports inaccessible from the outside of the fence or at least 90 cm apart | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | |



Compliant



Non-compliant

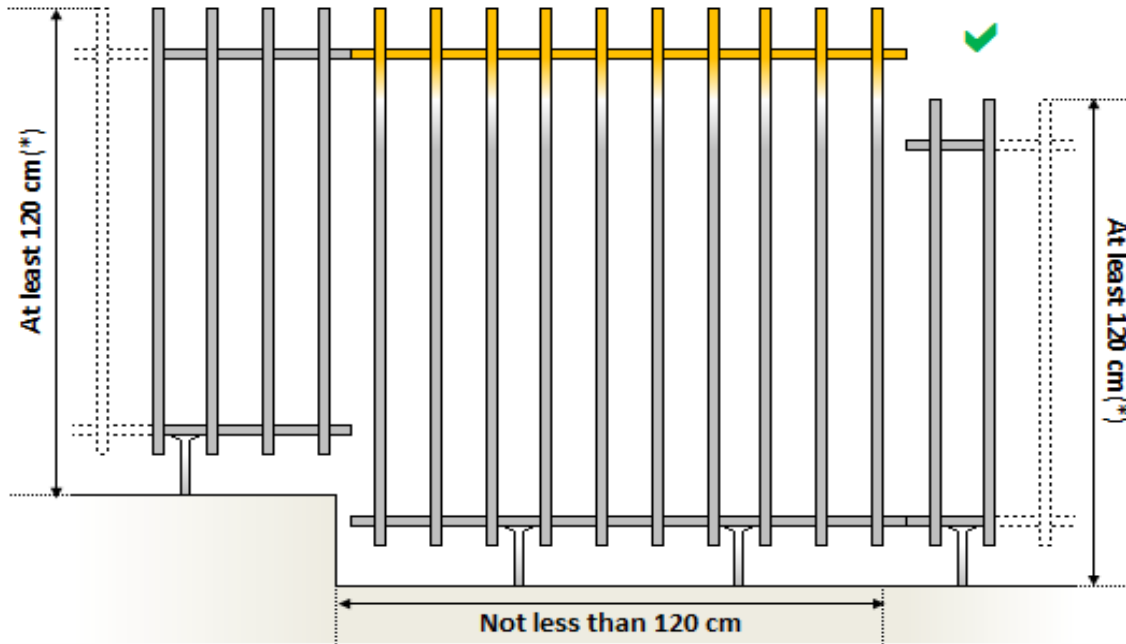
- | | | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 28. | No supports other than vertical or horizontal supports | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | |
| 29. | '16' to '28' and '31' to '38' applying at least 1.2 m beyond the pool fence junctions (outside the fence) to prevent access across them | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |

30. '16' to '28' and '31' to '38' applying at least 1.2 m beyond any change to the outside ground level (taking into account any object/structure/projection on the ground outside and within 1.2 m of the fence)

Pass

Fail

N/A



(*) See '18' to '20'.

MESH or TRELLIS MATERIAL

When used to clad a pool fence/gate

Yes

N/A

31. No opening in the mesh/trellis greater than 3.5 cm
32. Mesh/trellis firmly attached at both top and bottom

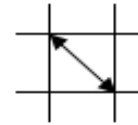
Pass

Fail

Pass

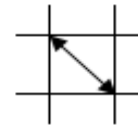
Fail

Openings LESS THAN 1.3 CM WIDE



- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| 33. | Fence/gates extending | at least 1.2 m above the ground on the outside of the fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail |
| 34. | Fence/gates extending | at least 1.2 m above any permanent projection from the ground outside and within 1.2 m of the fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail |
| 35. | Fence/gates extending | at least 1.2 m above any object standing on the ground outside and within 1.2 m of the fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail |

Openings BETWEEN 1.3 CM AND 3.5 CM WIDE



- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| 36. | Fence/gates extending | at least 1.8 m above the ground on the outside of the fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail |
| 37. | Fence/gates extending | at least 1.8 m above any permanent projection from the ground outside and within 1.2 m of the fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail |
| 38. | Fence/gates extending | at least 1.8 m above any object standing on the ground outside and within 1.2 m of the fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail |

POOL GATES

Yes N/A

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 39. | Fully compliant with '16' to '38' (above) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail |
| 40. | Fitted with hinges | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail |
| 41. | Never opening inwards towards the pool area | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail |
| 42. | Clear of any means of holding the gate open | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail |
| 43. | Fitted with a latching device | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail |

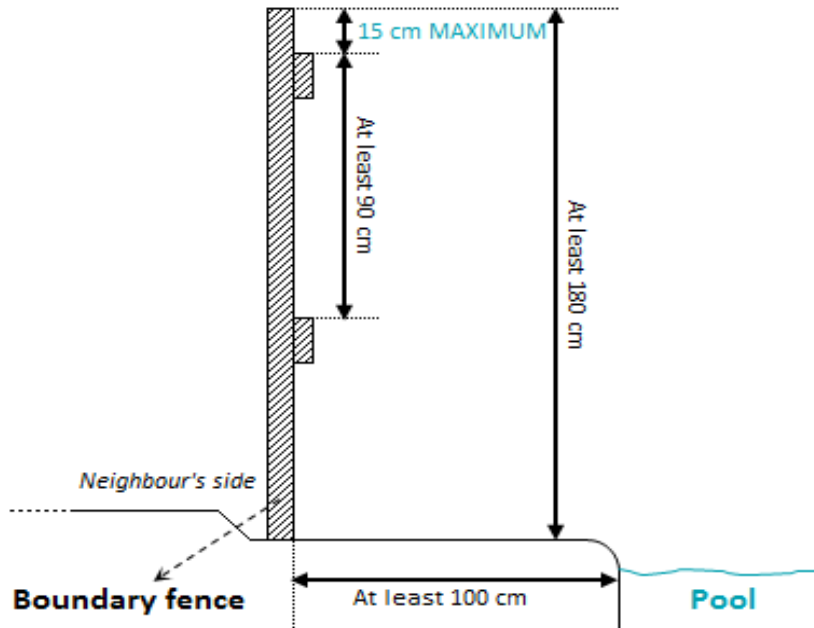
- | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|------------------------------|
| 44. | Fitted with a self-closer | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail | |
| 45. | When lifted up or pulled down, gate | | | | | |
| | ▪ not releasing the latching device, | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail | |
| | ▪ not coming off its hinges, | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail | |
| | ▪ not providing a ground clearance greater than 10 cm. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail | |
| 46. | Closing and latching automatically from any position with a stationary start (<i>i.e. without being pushed</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail | |
| 47. | Latching device positioned | | | | | |
| | ▪ at least 1.2 m above the ground on the outside of the pool fence when the latching device is accessible from the outside of the fence only | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| | □ by reaching over the fence/gate , or | | | | | |
| | □ through a hole in the fence/gate ⁽⁸⁾ | | | | | |
| | ▪ at least 1.5 m above the ground on the outside of the pool fence when the latching device is otherwise accessible from the outside of the fence/gate | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| | ⁽⁸⁾ <i>In this case, the lowest point of the hole must be at least 1.2 m above the ground on the outside of the fence.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail | |

BOUNDARY FENCE used as a pool fence

Yes **N/A**

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|
| 48. | Rigid permanent structure, strong and made of durable materials | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 49. | Located at least 1 m from the water's edge | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 50. | Extending at least 1.8 m above the ground on the pool side | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 51. | Angle between 0° and 15° maximum | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |
| 52. | Not sloping towards the pool | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fail |

- 53. No openings that a 10 cm diameter sphere could pass through Pass Fail
- 54. No projection or indention greater than 1 cm on the boundary fence itself (*on either side of the fence*) **unless** these projections or indentions are at least 90 cm apart vertically Pass Fail
- 55. 90 cm high zone on the pool side begins not more than 15 cm from the top (see below) Pass Fail



Note:

'50' to '55' also apply for 1.2 m more beyond the barrier junctions to prevent access across them.*

** Points where the pool physical barrier and the boundary fence meet*

DOORS giving access to the pool area

Yes N/A

Note: Doors will usually require two-handed operation, one to release the self-latching device and the other to operate the door handle lock set.

- 56. Single leaf door not more than 1 m in width Pass Fail
- 57. Door either side hinged or sliding Pass Fail

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 58. | Clear of any means of holding the door open | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | |
| 59. | Fitted with a self-latching positioned not less than 1.5 m above the inside floor | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | |
| 60. | Self-latching device requiring to be released manually AND automatically operating on the closing of the door | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | |
| 61. | Fitted with a self-closer or with an audible warning alarm | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | |
| 62. | Door opening towards the pool that closes and latches automatically from any position with a stationary start (<i>i.e. without being pushed</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| 63. | Door not opening towards the pool that closes and latches automatically with a stationary start (<i>i.e. without being pushed</i>) 15 cm away from the closed and latched position | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| 64. | Optional: homeowners may choose to fit signs to their pool access doors as a reminder.

A sign must: | | | |
| | ▪ be fixed adjacent to the inside door handle between 1.2 m and 1.5 m AND | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | |
| | ▪ state 'SWIMMING POOL. CLOSE THE DOOR.' AND | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | |
| | ▪ be composed of black letters of minimum height 5 mm complying with Paragraphs 2.2 and 3.2.2 of F8/AS1 (°) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | |
| 65. | A door alarm must | | | |
| | ▪ produce an alarm tone that commences 7 sec after the door's self-latching device is released AND | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | |
| | ▪ produce an alarm tone of 75dBAL ₁₀ when measured at a distance of 3 m AND | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | |
| | ▪ automatically return to a state of readiness when the door is closed and latched AND | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | |
| | ▪ have a low battery charge warning that may be visual or audible. | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass | <input type="checkbox"/> Fail | |

66. **Optional:** Alarms may be provided with a deactivation switch only if

- the deactivation switch is placed not less than 1.5 m above floor level AND
- the deactivation switch silences the alarm for not more than 15 seconds.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Pass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fail
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fail

(⁹) *Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods for New Zealand Building Code Clause F8 ('Signs').*

See current version of F8/AS1 at <https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/f-safety-of-users/f8-signs/>

WINDOWS opening on the pool area

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
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Note: ONLY applies if the vertical distance between the pool area and the opening portion of the window is within 2.4 m.

67. **Inside** the building:

- lower edge of the opening not less than 1 m above the floor AND
- no projections greater than 1 cm underneath the lower edge of the opening.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Pass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fail	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fail	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

OR

68. **Restrictor** permanently limiting the size of the opening to 10 cm maximum

<input type="checkbox"/>	Pass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fail	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
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OR

69. **Over the opening:**

- **Permanently fixed screen** with openings not allowing a 10 cm diameter sphere to pass through

<input type="checkbox"/>	Pass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fail	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
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COMPLIANCE

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No *
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* For assistance, please contact a Swimming Pool Officer at Hutt City Council