



6.14 (a) Glass Requirements Policy

Policy number: 7.14(a)
Date last reviewed: September 2023
Reviewed by: Child Care Team

This policy relates to	
Family Day Care/Venue Care	
National Quality Standards Early Childhood Education & Care	2.1.1 Each child’s wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child’s need for sleep, rest and relaxation, 2.2.1 At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard 3.1 The design of the facilities is appropriate for the operation of a service. 3.1.1 Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child. 3.1.2 Premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained

Purpose

The service complies with Australian standards and ensures risks to children through contact with glass are minimised.

Background

Information on Safety Standards for glass in Educators homes has been circulated by National Family Day Care Council and Educators have been made aware through this correspondence of their need to comply with the standards.

KidSafe- Many homes built before 1989 do not meet Australian safety standards for glass, exposing families and children to unnecessary risk due to splintering. Even though the standard was introduced in 1989 the changes were not retrospective and there had been little effort to upgrade glass in existing homes.

Unsafe glass in homes particularly before mid 1970s, include Annealed Glass, sheet glass, plate glass, float glass and figured rolled glass. All are made by melting together a variety of raw materials.

Policy

Regulation change as of June 2014 – Safety glass for FDC services. This change is to align the National Regulations with the Australian Standard for safety glass, which specifies current

requirements for glazed areas less than one metre above floor level. **Amendment only applies to FDC residences or venues approved by the approved provider of the FDC service after 1 June 2014.*

For existing educators prior to 1st June 2014, if a glazed area of a family day care residence or approved venue is accessible to children, and situated 7500mm or less above the floor level, one of the following is required:

- Children have been separated from internally and externally accessible glass. (this includes glass at entry to home).
- The glass should be guarded with barriers that prevent a child from hitting or falling against the glass;
- The glass should be safety glazed by the Building Code of Australia or;
- The glass must be treated with a product that prevents glass from shattering if broken Safety Film must be used (not tint film)

To lessen the risk of accidents, all glass doors, floor length windows and clear shower screens should have markings (stickers/contact) at children's varied eye levels and the area be well lit.

Educators will sign a glass statement to show how they have managed any glass under 1 metre that is accessible to children and provide evidence by one of the following:

- a) That all affected glass is safety glass meeting AS1288 2006 as displayed by AS stamping on all glass windows and doors.
- b) A statement or certificate from a licensed glazier stating that safety or toughened glass or safety film has been installed to Australian Standards. (Attach certificate or completed statement)
- c) Glass has been treated with a product that prevents glass from shattering if broken. (Photos of glass product and receipt) Must be safety film.
- d) Children have been separated from both internally and externally accessible glass.
- e) There is no glass under 1 metre in the areas that children have access to.
- f) Barriers have been put in place that prevents children striking or coming into contact with both internally and externally accessible glass below **one metre**. (Photos required)
- g) A compliance certificate from a licenced glazier stating that all required windows meet Required standards. (Certificate required)
- h) A form 15 from the original builder for the home stating that all accessible windows and doors meet the required standards when the home was built. (Attach form 15)

Glass information

Shower Screens

Since 1961 building codes have mandated the use of safety glass for shower door applications.

Fish tanks

Fish Tank glass may not be safety glass – for new purchases of fish tanks there will be manufacturing information with the tank on the sort of glass used. Regulation requirements will need to be considered and documented for fish tanks.

What is Grade A Safety Glass?

According to the Australian/New Zealand Standards AS/NZS 1288:2006 (Glass in buildings selection & installation), Grade A Safety glass category includes toughened, laminated and vinyl backed glass products.

Toughened Glass

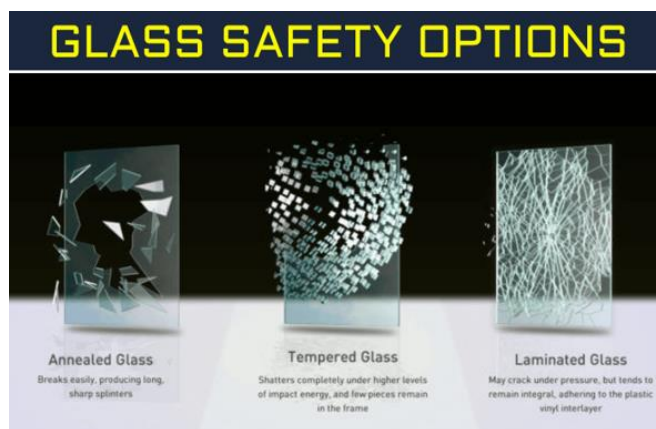
Toughened, or tempered glass is a type of high strengthened glass, formed by heating glass to the softening point (approx. 600-700 degrees C) in a horizontal tempering furnace, then quickly cooling it by blasting the glass with cold air. This alters the surface tension of the glass, effectively hardening the glass, Toughened glass is 4-5 times stronger than annealed glass of the same thickness. Due to the tension in the glass, toughened glass shatters into tiny cuoid fragments when broken, reducing the risk of injury. This quality determines toughened glass as a Grade A Safety Glass.

Laminated Glass

By using the combination of heat and extreme air pressure, laminated glass is produced by bonding two sheets of glass together with an interlayer. PVB (polyvinyl butyral) is the most commonly used interlayer for the manufacture of laminated glass. Due to the interlayer, laminated glass remains in one piece when broken.

This important quality determines laminated glass as a a Grade A Safety Glass. Upon impact, the glass may break, however, will remain as one piece inside the frame. Laminated glass

significantly reduces the risk of injury, as well as continuing to act as a barrier to the elements and provide security to your home or office.



Relevant Legislation

Standards Australia: Australian Standard AS 1288–2006

www.standards.org.au/Default.aspx

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

103 Premises, furniture and equipment to be safe, clean and in good repair.

116 Assessment of family day care residences and approved family day care venues.

117 Glass

Key Resources

Kidsafe Queensland: *Glass Safety*

www.kidsafeqld.com.au/images/stories/pdfs/inews.19885.1.pdf

Building code Australia

www.glassaustralia.com/glass-information

Queensland Government Health: *Child Home Safety Construction Guidelines 1998*

www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/documents/hpu/12685.pdf

Department of Education, Tasmania: *Glass Safety in Home Based Child Care Settings*

www.childcare.tas.gov.au/publications/GSATcarer.pdf

<https://destinglass.com/annealed-vs-tempered-vs-laminated-glass-differences/>