

## Child Care Standards

The *Child Care Act 2001* provides for Standards that apply to the provision of child care in Tasmania.

**The Tasmanian Home Based Care Standards, Class 1 (0-12yrs)**, cover glazing requirements in domestic dwellings as follows:

### Standard 11: Safe Environment

**11.16 Glazing in areas accessible to children (including glazed doors and side panels, and other panels such as windows identified as hazards to children)**

- a) All glazed internal and external doors and side panels must comply with Australian Standard (AS) 1288 *Glass in Buildings – Selection & Installation*.
- b) Any glazing that is accessible to children and identified through the use of the GSAT as a hazard to children, must **either**: be professionally treated  
**or**: be effectively guarded by barriers to prevent a child striking or falling against the glass. \*\*
- c) A certificate stating that the quality and installation of the safety glazing materials comply with the relevant Australian Standards must be provided by the installer.
- d) When replacing glass in an area identified as a hazard to children, glazing materials which comply with the relevant Australian Standards must be used.
- e) Windows, when opened, must not create a hazard to children.

*NOTE : \*\* This wording will cover situations where glazing meets the relevant Australian Standards, but may still be identified as a hazard in terms of children's safety.*

### 11.17 Other Glass

The carer must ensure that items of furniture or equipment with a glass component, such as mirrors, glass-top tables, and glass cabinets do not present a danger to children.

It is a requirement of the HBC Standards that people undertaking the provision of child care in a home based setting conduct a thorough risk assessment of all glazing, and take measures appropriate to the circumstances to ensure minimization or elimination of the risk.

There are two requirements in assessing the safety of glazing in domestic dwellings used for the provision of home based care:

1. Glazing must meet the requirements of the Building Code of Australia.
2. A risk assessment using the GSAT (Glass Safety Assessment Tool) may recommend additional safety measures **over and above** the requirements of the Building Code.

### For further information:

Contact the Child Care Unit, Department of Education on **Ph 1300 135 513** or

**[Childcare.comment@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:Childcare.comment@education.tas.gov.au)**

### CONTACT DETAILS:

Department of Education  
Child Care Unit  
GPO Box 169  
HOBART 7001  
Phone: 6233 5676  
Fax: 6233 6042

## Glass Safety in Home Based Child Care Settings

## The Tasmanian Glass Safety Assessment Tool (GSAT) - *a risk assessment tool for home based child care situations*

## Information for Glaziers

# Glass Safety Assessment Tool (GSAT)

## Key Points for the information of Glaziers

- In Tasmania home based carers are registered or licensed to care for small groups of children in the carer's primary residence. This residence continues to be classified as a domestic dwelling. The home is *not* deemed to be a child care centre or a commercial facility.
- It is expected that glazing in these homes used for the provision of home based care meets the current requirements of the Building Code of Australia (BCA) for domestic dwellings.
- Where glazing is installed, replaced or treated, carers will require a certificate from the glazier confirming the product and installation meet the relevant Australian Standards.
- The GSAT was developed by the home based care sector as a risk assessment and management tool to achieve the best outcomes for the care and protection of children; it does not assess the type or suitability of the glazing itself.
- Use of the GSAT enables home based child carers, with the support of their Approved Registration Bodies (Family Day Care Schemes), to meet the requirements of the *Tasmanian Standards for Home Based Care Class 1 (0—12 years)*.

For information on the Home Based Care Class 1 glazing standard, refer to the section below on 'Child Care Standards'

- Application of the GSAT may result in the Approved Registration Body (ARB) requiring, and the carer requesting, a higher level of glazing installation/application than would normally be required under the BCA for domestic dwellings.

## Description of the GSAT

The GSAT provides an objective framework for assessing the level of risk posed by glazing in home based child care

settings. The risk assessment and management tool provides a guide to treatment of the risk, the opportunity to document the assessment process, and actions required.

## Use of the GSAT

The GSAT is designed to be used collaboratively by home based carers and ARB (Scheme) staff. The GSAT includes a table to be completed and a detailed guide to assist with this.

The main components are:

- GLASS NUMBER** - This is the first column and identifies the piece of glazing being assessed.
- POSITION OF GLASS** - The next 2 columns deal with the location of the glass in the room.
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY AREAS** - The next 2 columns deal with the way in which children use the area where the glass is located, eg active or quiet play.
- OTHER USE OF SPACE**—The 3 columns deal with how other glazed areas are used. A full description of each category is provided in the GSAT Guide.

Each piece of glazing is scored, and scores are added across giving a total rating, and a rating code. Each piece is rated as either **LOW**, **MEDIUM** or **HIGH** risk.

The GSAT Guide is then used to provide information about treatment of the risk, in other words, what actions need to be taken.

Actions agreed between the carer and the Scheme are recorded and must be followed through. This may involve the need for urgent action in the case of glazing posing a **HIGH** level of risk; or it may mean ensuring a Safety Plan is developed and adhered to.

## Case Study 1:

Sally Jones lives in a cottage and has applied to become a home-based child carer with her local Family Day Care Scheme. As part of the safety assessment of her home, Sally and a staff member use the GSAT to undertake an assessment of the level of risk posed by glazing. Sally's kitchen window is above the sink, and looks out onto an outdoor grassed play area. Due to her proposed use of the space (children playing ball games on the grass outside) the window is assessed as **HIGH** risk. Sally contacts a glazier who confirms the window already meets the requirements of the Building Code for domestic dwellings. However given the situation, Sally requests that the glazing be replaced with certified safety glazing.

## Case Study 2:

Anna Hall has just moved into a brand new home, and while she has certification that the glazing meets the Building Code, she uses the GSAT to assess the level of risk. As would be expected, the glass doors are rated as a **HIGH** level of risk. Anna's glazier confirms that one of the doors, with very small glazed panels, is not safety glazed, and not required to be under the Code. Anna will have babies in care, and decides she will have safety film fitted to the door panels to further reduce the level of risk. She has made her decision based on her practice and the risk assessment provided by the GSAT.