



Age of Certification

The Lifesaving Society Canada is adopting 15 years as the minimum age prerequisite for certification as a Swim Instructor, Lifesaving Instructor, or National Lifeguard. Candidates must be at least 15 years of age as of the final day of the course. Award prerequisites for these certifications remain unchanged.

This is a national change in these national awards. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the change to 15 years is effective July 1, 2020.

This change is the result of two years of thoughtful consultation with the Society's affiliate members, leadership personnel and aquatic industry leaders. We thank them for their hard work.

The time is right. In an era of chronic staff shortages in aquatics, this change means more candidates can participate in the certification training they need for employment earlier than ever. And it means employers can tap into a larger talent pool too and begin staff recruitment efforts earlier.

In the discussions about age as a determinate of success, it was recognized that age is only one factor among many including physical, cognitive and emotional maturity that determine successful outcomes. There was consensus that the Society's competency-based evaluation system (e.g., the Must Sees) is, in the end, a more useful and objective measure of success.

The Society's minimum age for certification has no impact on the minimum age for employment for instructors and lifeguards (16 years) established by the Public Pools Regulations.

July 19-25, 2020

National Drowning
Prevention Week

LIFESAVING SOCIETY

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Policy Change Reminders

The Society has implemented several policy changes since March. Stay up to date by checking in with the [Society's website](#) regularly in case you missed them:

Blended learning: The Lifesaving Society has prepared a guide to support its affiliate members and leadership personnel who plan to augment traditional in-person training with online or blended learning delivery of the Society's courses. [Open the guide here.](#)

First aid valid for 3 years: To reduce confusion among employers by harmonizing the Lifesaving Society currency period with Newfoundland and Labrador government regulations, CSA recommendations and the general practice among other workplace first aid providers, the Lifesaving Society has adopted a 3-year period for the validity of its Emergency First Aid and Workplace Standard First Aid certifications. [Read the announcement here.](#)

Vocational award currency extension: To support aquatic staff and the reopening of aquatic facilities, the Lifesaving Society is extending the validity of awards required for employment that have expired since March 1, 2020. Specifically, the Society will extend the currency of these awards for a period of 90 days from the day pools were permitted to reopen. [Read full details here.](#)



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First Aid Prereq change after July 1

Workplace Standard First Aid (SFA) is a prerequisite certification to National Lifeguard and can be used as a prerequisite for several other Lifesaving Society courses including Bronze Cross. To date only SFA awards issued by the national agencies (Lifesaving Society, St. John Ambulance, Canadian Red Cross or Canadian Ski Patrol) were eligible as prerequisites.

This changes for exams held after July 1, 2020.

In light of the significant growth in the number of first aid providers and recent changes in government regulations, the Lifesaving Society is broadening access to its lifesaving and lifeguard courses by accepting, for prerequisite purposes, SFA certifications provided by training agencies approved by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Society will post on its website the list of approved agency SFA certifications that may be used as prerequisites to the Society's awards. The Society will update its list periodically to align with changes approved by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

We hope that this change means easier access to Lifesaving Society certification courses for more candidates, and that this change makes things a little easier for the Society's affiliates.

Bronze instructors – get ready

If you teach or examine the Bronze awards, you need the new *Bronze Medals Award Guide* to get ready for when your employer implements the revised program. It includes:



- The test items, performance requirements (Must Sees) and notes for the new Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross awards.
- A technical supplement related to new items in Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross and advice on setting up lifesaving and Bronze Cross assistant lifeguarding situations.

[Order your copy today.](#) \$19.60 plus tax. Second edition (April 2020), 84 pages, saddle-stitched and three-hole punched for compatibility with the Society's Leadership binder.

Watch for more information for affiliates, instructors and recertifying Bronze Cross candidates.

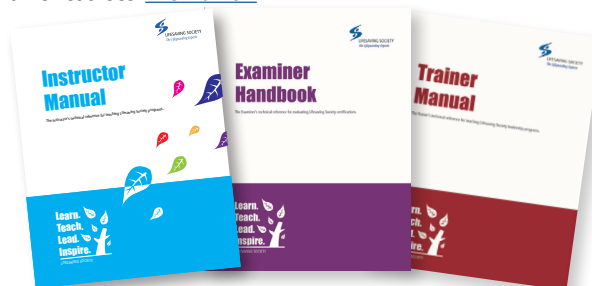
Calling all instructors, examiners and trainers!

The Society's trifecta of technical resources to support the delivery of the revised leadership training programs are all available!

The *Instructor Manual* provides instructors with the essentials needed to successfully teach, coach and evaluate Lifesaving Society programs. Used with award guides, the *Instructor Manual* (which replaces *Instructor Notes*) is the required text on all instructor courses. [The Instructor Manual costs \\$20.00 plus tax.](#)

The *Examiner Handbook* provides the essential knowledge and tools required to plan and conduct Lifesaving Society examinations. All active Lifesaving Society examiners need the *Examiner Handbook* and it is the required text for candidates on Lifesaving Society Examiner courses. [The Examiner Handbook costs \\$27.80 plus tax.](#)

The *Trainer Manual* is the Lifesaving Society Trainer's technical reference and companion to the leadership award guides. All active Lifesaving Society trainers need this manual, and it is a required text for candidates on Lifesaving Society Trainer courses. [The Trainer Manual costs \\$27.80 plus tax.](#)



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The Lifesaving Society is a national, volunteer organization and registered charity working to prevent drowning and water-related injury. Annually, over 1,000,000 Canadians participate in the Society's swimming, lifesaving, lifeguard and leadership training programs. The Society sets the standard for aquatic safety in Canada and certifies Canada's National Lifeguards.