



Prince Edward Island

August 2020



Emergency and Standard First Aid certs now valid for 3 years (36 months)

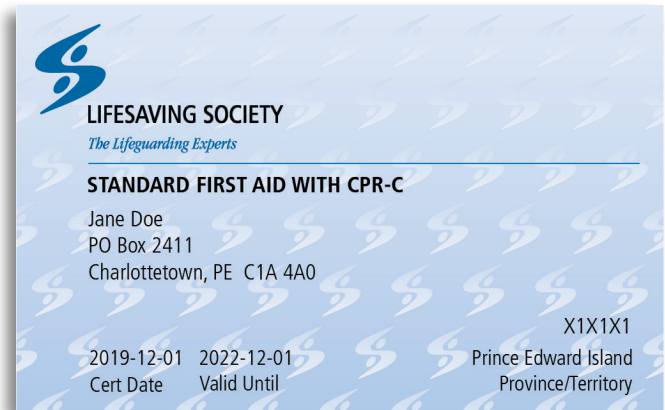
While Lifesaving Society certifications are held for life, the Society deems them “current” for a specific period – primarily for employment purposes – after which the award holder must “recertify”. Historically, this currency period is 24 months from the date of certification.

The Society’s 2-year currency period is problematic in the world of workplace first aid. The Government of Prince Edward Island (e.g., the Workers Compensation Board of PEI) observes a 3-year currency period for Emergency First Aid and Standard First Aid as do most other Canadian issuers of first aid certificates. Recently, the Canadian Standards Association Technical Committee – while citing the increasing evidence for the validity of a 2-year currency period for first aid certifications – recommended a 3-year requalification period in line with the industry consensus.

In the interests of reducing confusion among employers and harmonizing the Lifesaving Society currency period with Prince Edward Island 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 Standard First Aid certifications only.

Nevertheless, employers must take note of the evidence that skill retention among emergency responders requires regular practice and more frequent recertification. Employers may require their aquatic staff to recertify their first aid certifications more frequently than every 36 months.

Note: There is no change in the 2-year currency period for all other Lifesaving Society certifications.



First Aid prereq change

Emergency First Aid (EFA) or Standard First Aid (SFA) are prerequisite certifications to several Lifesaving Society courses including National Lifeguard. To date, only EFA or 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 growth in the number of first aid providers, the Lifesaving Society is broadening access to its lifesaving and lifeguard courses by accepting, for prerequisite purposes, EFA and SFA certifications provided by training agencies approved by the Government of Prince Edward Island.

The Society has posted on its website the [list of approved agency EFA and 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 Prince Edward Island government.

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.

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 Prince Edward Island, 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 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 *Prince Edward Island Public Health Act Swimming Pool and Waterslide Regulations*.

PPE – Now Available

The Lifesaving Society sells Personal Protective Equipment including reusable and disposable masks, medical gloves, non-contact infrared thermometers, hand sanitizer, BVMs and BVM HEPA filter attachments, cleaning supplies and more.

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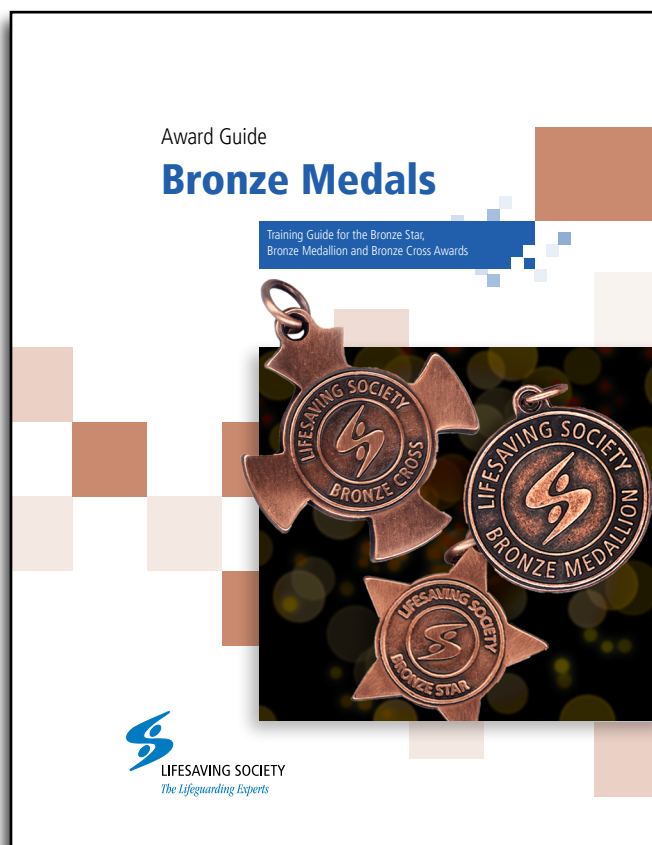
Bronze instructors – get ready

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 required 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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