

Lifesaving Society Emergency and Standard First Aid certifications valid for 3 years (36 months) from date of certification

February 26, 2020 – 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 New Brunswick government (e.g., WorkSafeNB) observes a 3-year currency period for Workplace 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 New Brunswick government regulations, CSA recommendations and the general practice among other workplace first aid providers, the Lifesaving Society New Brunswick has adopted a 3-year period for the validity of its Emergency First Aid and Workplace 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. Also, those providing first aid in their workplace are still required to have a minimum of 6 hours practice on first aid skills each year during which he or she holds a valid certificate.

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