



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®
SOCIÉTÉ DE SAUVETAGE

The Lifeguarding Experts

Les experts en surveillance aquatique

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Safety Standards for Canadian Swimming Pools and Waterfronts Aquatic Facility Standard

Lifeguard Certification Standard

Standard

The required certification for a lifeguard is a current National Lifeguard award.

Definitions

Current: a National Lifeguard certification dated not more than two years prior to the date of which the lifeguard is on duty.

Rationale

The Lifesaving Society's National Lifeguard award is Canada's recognized lifeguarding certification:

- The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) is composed of 13 provincial/territorial parks and recreation associations representing 90% of Canada's communities. CPRA unanimously endorses a single lifeguard standard for Canada and National Lifeguard as that standard (2006 and 2008 resolutions).
- National Lifeguard is the Canadian lifeguard standard recognized by the International Life Saving Federation.
- National Lifeguard has been endorsed by Recreation Nova Scotia, Parks and Recreation Ontario, Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, B.C. Recreation and Parks Association, CUPE and St. John Ambulance.
- Of the over 4,000 supervised aquatic facilities in Canada, 99% endorse National Lifeguard as the sole lifeguard standard.

The National Lifeguard standard is backed by the Lifesaving Society Canada and endorsed and supported by the National Lifeguard Advisory Committee composed of lifeguard employers and national agencies: Canadian Parks and Recreation Association; Physical and Health Education Canada; YMCA; and Canadian Armed Forces.

The National Lifeguard standard is available in every province and territory in Canada and the only lifeguard certification recognized by employers in all provinces and territories.

References

- Various regulatory references from the Canadian Legal Information Institute website (www.canlii.org) which offers regulatory references for all provinces.
- Alert: Lifeguarding in Action, Lifesaving Society Canada

Approval

- Approved by the Lifesaving Society Canada Board of Directors on 10 April 2012.

Disclaimer

Lifesaving Society Canada's National Safety Standards are developed using Coroners' recommendations, the latest evidence-based research, and reflect the aquatic industry's best practices at the time the publication was approved or revised.

The purpose of these standards is to encourage swimming pool, waterpark and waterfront owners, managers, operators and regulators to adopt these standards in order to prevent drownings in aquatic environments.

Lifesaving Society Canada's National Safety Standards do not replace or supersede local, provincial/territorial or federal legislation or regulations, but they are considered the standard to which aquatic facility operators should work towards in order to enhance safety within their operations and to prevent drowning and aquatic-related injury.