



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 Swimming Pool Standard

### Assistant Lifeguard for Swimming Pools

#### Standard

To be employed as an assistant lifeguard, an individual should be a minimum of 15 years of age and hold (at a minimum) a current Lifesaving Society Bronze Cross certification and a current Emergency First Aid certification.

#### Definitions

**Assistant lifeguard:** a person appointed by the owner or operator to assist a National Lifeguard in the supervision of bather safety at a swimming pool.

**Current:** an award dated not more than two years from the date of certification.

**Lifeguard:** a person with current Lifesaving Society National Lifeguard certification appointed by the owner or operator to maintain surveillance and to supervise bather safety while bathers are on the deck or in the pool.

**Operator:** the trained individual designated by the owner to be responsible for the day-to-day operation of an aquatic facility.

**Owner:** the person or corporation who is the owner of an aquatic facility.

#### Rationale

- Some provincial/territorial regulations and guidelines identify the job title of an assistant lifeguard but look to the Lifesaving Society to specify certification requirements. (2,3,6)
- The certification(s) specified in this standard will provide assistant lifeguards with the knowledge, skills, judgement and fitness needed to assist with lifeguard duties.

#### Implementation

- The number of assistant lifeguards on active swimmer safety surveillance (on deck) shall not exceed the number of National Lifeguards on deck.

- Employers will be responsible to provide training to assistant lifeguards in facility specific safety and supervision systems; Occupational Health and Safety; and facility specific policies and procedures.
- Assistant lifeguards may provide supervision of a zone or at locations where specific equipment or activities require targeted supervision (e.g., climbing wall, rope swings, etc.). Assistant lifeguards provide surveillance over swimmer safety, model and promote safe aquatic behaviours, provide positive public relations, respond to emergency situations, and provide basic patron care. (5)
- Assistant lifeguards do not replace the need for National Lifeguards. National Lifeguards are responsible for the overall safety and supervision of the aquatic facility and patrons. National Lifeguards take the lead role in risk assessments, lifeguard positioning and rotation, coordinating rescue response, administrative duties and in-service training. Assistant lifeguards play a supportive role under National Lifeguard direction. (4) (5)
- Assistant lifeguards should not perform opening or closing duties of an aquatic facility without a National Lifeguard on duty.
- An assistant lifeguard shall not work alone in an aquatic facility without a National Lifeguard on duty.

## References

- [1] Royal Life Saving Society Canada. (2016). Alert: Lifeguarding in Action (2nd Edition). Ontario: Royal Life Saving Society Canada.
- [2] Quebec B-1.1, r.11; B 26; B 27 - 29 - Regulation respecting safety in public baths
- [3] NWT Regulation cP-21 Section 1/Appendix C
- [4] International Life Saving Federation – Position Statement – Minimum Training for Training as a Lifeguard- LPS 08
- [5] Royal Life Saving Society Canada – Bronze Medals Award Guide, Supplement (2020)
- [6] Ontario Regulation 565, Public Pools Regulation, Section 17

## Approval

- Approved by the Lifesaving Society Canada Board of Directors on 21 April 2020.

## Disclaimer

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

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.