

New Verification of Identification Policy

Effective January 1, 2026

The Lifesaving Society will begin phasing in a new [Verification of Identity Policy](#) for all original vocational courses and recertifications. This policy must be implemented no later than January 1, 2026. Verifying a candidate's identity helps ensure the integrity of the Lifesaving Society's certifications and protects employers and the public.

Key changes

Vocational courses provide successful candidates with a licence issued by the Lifesaving Society Ontario in the form of a certification card and/or Find a Member record. This record indicates to an employer that the named candidate has met the minimum competencies and standards required for the indicated certification.

For the purposes of this policy, candidates must verify their identity before participating in any of the following original or recertification courses:

- Pool Attendant
- Waterpark Attendant
- Bronze Cross (original or recert)
- National Lifeguard (original or recert)*
- Emergency First Aid
- Standard First Aid (original or recert)
- Aquatic Supervisor
- Aquatic Manager
- Assistant Instructor
- Swim Instructor
- Swim Update Clinic
- Lifesaving Instructor
- National Lifeguard Instructor
- First Aid Instructor
- In-person recertification course
- Examiner course
- Trainer course

* Pool, Waterpark, Waterfront & Surf

What does “verify their identity” mean?

All candidates must present accepted identification (see below) at the start of the course or recertification. The instructor, examiner, or trainer will confirm that the identification information and photo:

1. Match the name listed on the candidate’s permanent Lifesaving Society certification card or Find a Member record (if applicable).
2. Match the identity of the individual present at the course or recertification.

For candidates who have not previously taken a Lifesaving Society course, and therefore do not have a permanent card or record with the Lifesaving Society, the instructor, examiner, or trainer will ensure that the candidate’s full legal name and date of birth gets recorded accurately on the test sheet.

What is acceptable proof of identity?

Accepted identification must:

- Be original and valid (not expired)
- Include the candidate’s full name, date of birth, and a photo
- Be issued by a government body

Examples of accepted identification include:

- Driver’s Licence
- Health Card (with photo)
- Passport
- Permanent Resident Card
- Ontario Photo Card
- Certificate of Indian Status
- Canadian Citizenship Card (with photo)

What do I do if a candidate doesn’t have accepted photo identification?

A candidate without accepted photo identification may present a Birth Certificate or Health Card without a photo, **plus** provide a completed attestation form.

What is an attestation form, and where do I find it?

An attestation form is a document used to verify a candidate's identity.

It must be completed by a parent, legal guardian, friend, or family member who is at least 18 years of age and has personally known the candidate for a minimum of two (2) years. The attester affirms the candidate's identity based on their longstanding personal relationship.

Only one attestation form is required if the candidate is taking a combined course (e.g., Bronze Cross and Standard First Aid).

Please ensure all staff members are familiar with the attestation form and process. The form can be downloaded from [the Lifesaving Society website](#). Please note that any completed attestation forms must be submitted to the Lifesaving Society along with the appropriate test sheet.

Implementation

Affiliates may begin phasing in the Verification of Identity policy at any time. As of **January 1, 2026**, all instructors, examiner and trainers must follow this policy. We ask that you begin communicating with your clients as soon as possible through your website, social media, brochures, emails, and other channels. Ensure your registration system lists identity verification as a prerequisite for the vocational courses listed above.

Communicate your implementation plan with your staff and provide reminders as key dates approach.

For more information, contact:

Lifesaving Society
400 Consumers Road
Toronto, Ontario M2J 1P8
Tel: 416.490.8844
Fax: 416.490.8766
Email: experts@lifeguarding.com
www.lifesavingsociety.com
www.lifeguarddepot.com