

# New Verification of Identification Policy

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***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
- National Lifeguard\*
- Emergency First Aid
- Standard First Aid
- 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

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\* 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).

Familiarize yourself with the attestation form and process. The form can be downloaded from [the Lifesaving Society website](#), or obtained from your employer. Please note that any completed attestation forms must be submitted to the Lifesaving Society along with the appropriate test sheet.

## Examples of how to apply the new Verification of Identity Policy

**Scenario 1:** Candidate provides a Driver's License at their National Lifeguard pool recertification.

- Driver's Licence meets the criteria of acceptable proof of identity.
- Examiner confirms the photo matches the identity of the candidate present at the recert.
- Examiner confirms the name on the Driver's License matches the National Lifeguard pool recertification card the candidate has provided.

**Scenario 2:** Candidate is taking a Standard First Aid course with the Lifesaving Society for the first time. They arrive at the course with only their school student card.

- School student card does **not** meet the criteria of acceptable proof of identity.
- Family member brings the candidate's passport.
- Instructor/examiner confirms the photo matches the identity of the candidate present at the course.
- Instructor/examiner records the candidate's exact legal name and date of birth from the passport on the test sheet.

**Alternatively:**

- Family member brings the candidate's non-photo Health Card and completes an attestation form.
- Instructor/examiner verifies that the information provided on the attestation form matches the Health Card of the candidate and the valid photo identification provided by the Guarantor.
- Instructor/examiner records the candidate's exact legal name and date of birth from the candidate's health card on the test sheet.
- The instructor/examiner signs the attestation form and attaches it to the test sheet upon completion of the course.

## Important reminders

- Do not take or retain copies of identification or the attestation form.
- For online courses, candidates must present identification in a private breakout room.
- Attestation forms must be submitted with test sheets.
- You are responsible for confirming each candidate's identity.

## Implementation

Check with your employer to determine when they will begin phasing in the Verification of Identity policy. As of **January 1, 2026**, you must follow this policy as part of your prerequisite check for all identified courses.

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