



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®
SOCIÉTÉ DE SAUVETAGE

The Lifeguarding Experts
Les experts en surveillance aquatique

LIFESAVING SOCIETY – MANITOBA

100 – 383 Provencher Blvd.
Winnipeg MB R2H 0N9
Ph (204) 956-2124 Fax (204) 944-8546
Email: aquatics@lifesaving.mb.ca

Proposal for clarification of course times for the recertification of First Aider 2 Certification in the “First Aid Training Guideline for Manitoba Workplaces” Submitted by: The Lifesaving Society Manitoba Branch

Overview

There needs to be clarification in the description of the course time requirements for recertification courses for First Aider 2 (commonly referred to as Standard First Aid).

The “First Aid Training Guideline for Manitoba Workplaces – July 2015” states: “A person has the qualifications of a First Aider 2 if he or she holds one or more certificates issued by one or more first aid training providers showing that he or she has successfully completed at least 16 hours in the following first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training courses.” There is no mention of the length of time required for retesting competency for First Aider 2 course content (commonly called recertification courses).

Proposal

- It is the Lifesaving Society Manitoba’s recommendation that the recertification course time for First Aider 2 should be a minimum of 8 hours. This will fall in line with the course time for First Aider 2 recertification in six other provinces and most importantly in Saskatchewan and Ontario. This would:
 - remove barriers for accepting First Aider 2 certifications from other provinces thus removing a potential barrier to job mobility for workers between provinces.
 - reduce the cost to employers for certifying and recertifying their First Aider 2 designated employees in cost of wages, lost hours of productivity, and fees paid for workers to maintain certifications. Employers will have more resources – both economical and man-power to improve productivity.

Rational

- For more than a decade, until December 2015, the training agencies have offered recertification courses for First Aider 2 at 6 – 8 hours in length. Workplace Safety and Health never flagged this as being inappropriate. The interpretation of how long a First Aider 2 recertification course was changed to 16 hours in December 2015 without input requested from all the provincial branches of the First Aid Training Agencies who make up the Canadian Consensus Guidelines Task Force. This task force is responsible for the interpretation of the recommendation made by the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) to set the performance standards, judgment algorithms, and training guideline protocols for first aid and CPR skills in Canada. As experts in the field of first aid and CPR training, the provincial representatives of the task force would be the logical resource for Workplace Safety and Health to consult for any changes, clarifications, etc. to workplace first aid training requirements. The Lifesaving Society of Canada has been a member of this task force since it was first founded as the Emergency Cardiac Care Committee.

- The Lifesaving Society of Manitoba has been in existence for over 106 years. Throughout that time we have done extensive research (and continue to do so) in the teaching and evaluation of rescue and first aid skills to ensure current award holders can prove they have the ability to perform skills and apply judgment required in an emergency situation. A retesting of skills and knowledge is sufficient to determine if a person can still perform the skill to the level of competency required for the certification. New and/or additional training need only occur if there have been significant changes to the skill or if the certification has not been current for a lengthy period.
- For other industry certifications, candidates are not required to take the entire course over again to prove competency of skills. For example:
 - Forklift operators are only required to redo a test every three years.
 - Lifeguards are only required to pass the practical test every two years.
- Clarification of recertification course times will ensure that the requirements for first aid training are clear for all first aid training providers.

Recommendation

- The requirement for the length of recertification courses for First Aider 2 in the *“First Aid Training Guideline for Manitoba Workplaces”* should be clearly stated. The proposed change would read:
Certification Course: Minimum 16 training hours
Recertification Course: Minimum 8 testing hours
Certification Term: Maximum 3 years