



REC-IMO-006	Public Pools and Water Attractions
Revision: 1.0	Red Cross CPR Certification Alternatives
Approved: 11/14/2023	Wisc. Stat. and/or Wis. Admin. Code: ATCP 76

TO: DATCP and Agent Sanitarians, and Operators of Licensed Public Pools with lifeguard programs

FROM: Retail and Recreational Program Section

SUBJECT: Annual training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for lifeguards

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to advise facilities with their own ‘in-house’ lifeguard training and certification programs based on the Red Cross Lifeguard course how to certify their Lifeguards in CPR. This memo is to explain that they may certify their lifeguards in CPR annually using a curriculum that meets Department criteria in lieu of having lifeguards complete one of the already-approved Lifeguard or CPR for the Professional Rescuer courses. Acceptable in-house courses will include in-person skills assessment as well as knowledge checks.

Note: A Red Cross Lifeguard certificate earned by 12/31/23, whether in-house or at another training venue, is valid and considered an ‘approved’ course by the department, for 2 years, including the CPR portion of the Lifeguard course.

2.0 Scope

This memo is for facilities that have their own lifeguard training and certification programs based on the Red Cross Lifeguard course, and for the Department and Agent Sanitarians inspecting those facilities. This memo pertains only to annual certification for CPR and not the initial full Red Cross Lifeguard training.

3.0 Definitions

- 3.1 ‘Lifeguard’ means a person holding a current certificate from a course that meets the criteria for lifeguarding, first aid and CPR, and AED training and certification set forth in the 2018 Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC).

4.0 Interpretation

- 4.1 The Wisconsin Pool Code defines a lifeguard as a person who holds a certificate that meets the criteria in the 2018 MAHC. The 2018 MAHC, section 6.2.1.3.5, states that a CPR certification is valid for 1 year. All DATCP-approved lifeguard courses meet these criteria, except Red Cross Lifeguard, whose Lifeguard certificate includes a CPR component that is in place for 2 years.
- 4.2 Certain facilities such as large health clubs, municipal pools, and large waterparks have their own lifeguard training programs for economic and logistical reasons. For example, they are able to accommodate staff turnover and train new hires without waiting for a course to be offered in their area. Currently, many of these facilities use the Red Cross Lifeguard course.
- 4.3 Following the calendar dates of when new Lifeguards are initially trained, the need for certification will occur at different dates for different lifeguards. Furthermore, as the Lifeguard Instructor is able to train their staff in CPR, it will be more economical and less problematic logistically to use a custom CPR certification process.
- 4.4 An equivalence evaluation tool is already in place in the D-fd-23 CPR AED Course Assessment. This is the tool used to evaluate full CPR courses. It will be used to determine if the CPR course to be used by a facility meets 2018 MAHC criteria. Essentially, each facility is applying for course approval and how they administer the Red Cross CPR course and will be evaluated by the Department to make sure that CPR knowledge and skills are being verified annually.
- 4.5 Examples of what meets the definition of 'lifeguard' using Red Cross Lifeguard as a course:
 - 4.5.1 A person completing the Red Cross Lifeguard course by December 31, 2023, will be considered as meeting the definition of Lifeguard.
 - 4.5.2 A person taking an approved professional CPR course annually.
 - 4.5.3 A person completing annual CPR certification, taught by a certified Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor, that meets criteria in D-fd-23 CPR/AED Course Criteria Assessment.
- 4.6 The process to follow if using an in-house program:
 - 4.6.1 Complete form D-fd-23. The knowledge and skills must meet the criteria in D-fd-23.
 - 4.6.2 Send the forms D-fd-23 to DATCPDFRSREC@wisconsin.gov.
 - 4.6.3 If the course is approved, follow the conditions outlined in the approval. The approval will be valid for 5 years.
 - 4.6.3.1 Issue a certificate to each Lifeguard successfully completing an annual CPR certification course.
 - 4.6.3.1.1 Person's name
 - 4.6.3.1.2 Date of completion
 - 4.6.3.1.3 Name of course
 - 4.6.3.1.4 Name of Instructor
 - 4.6.3.1.5 Instructor certificate number
 - 4.6.3.1.6 Instructor certificate expiration date.

4.6.3.2 Keep a copy of all certifications for each Lifeguard to be made available upon request.

4.6.3.3 Instructor must also maintain annual CPR certification.

5.0 Contacts

DATCPDFRSREC@wisconsin.gov

6.0 References

- 6.1 2018 Model Aquatic Health Code.
- 6.2 REC-POL-019 Red Cross Lifeguard Policy
- 6.3 D-fd-23, CPR/AED Course Criteria Assessment form

7.0 Document History

The most recent changes to this controlled document are listed at the top of the table:

Revision	Author	Change Description	Approval Date
1.0	Rec. Team	New document	11/14/2023

8.0 Approval

Workflow History

The workflow recorded these events.

Date Occurred	Event Type	User ID	Description	Outcome
10/25/2023 2:31 PM	Workflow Initiated	Northwood, Andrea M	Approval was started. Participants: Ingham, Steven C.; Sprecker, Troy S	
10/25/2023 2:31 PM	Task Created	Northwood, Andrea M	Task created for Ingham, Steven C. Due by: None	
10/25/2023 2:31 PM	Task Created	Northwood, Andrea M	Task created for Sprecker, Troy S. Due by: None	
10/26/2023 8:05 AM	Task Completed	Ingham, Steven C.	Task assigned to Ingham, Steven C. was approved by Ingham, Steven C. Comments: Made some edits and comments; saved file.	Approved by Ingham, Steven C.
11/14/2023 1:35 PM	Task Completed	Sprecker, Troy S	Task assigned to Sprecker, Troy S was approved by Sprecker, Troy S. Comments:	Approved by Sprecker, Troy S
11/14/2023 1:35 PM	Workflow Completed	Northwood, Andrea M	Approval was completed.	Approval on Red Cross CPR Certification Alternatives DRAFT has successfully completed. All participants have completed their tasks.