



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 Aquatic Facility Standard

Lifeguard Age Standard

Standard

The minimum age for a lifeguard on duty is 16 years of age.

Definitions

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

Rationale

- Sixteen years is a reasonable minimum age of maturity for the assumption of lifeguard responsibilities and the performance of lifeguard duties.
- Sixteen years is consistent with the minimum age for lifeguards recommended by the International Life Saving Federation.

References

- Recommended Minimum Age for ILS International Lifesaving and Lifeguarding Certificates, International Life Saving Federation, Leuven, Belgium, September 2007
- International Labour Organization (www.ilo.org)
- Guidelines for Establishing Open-Water Recreational Beach Standards, United States Lifesaving Association, 1980
- Proposed Rules for Child Labor – Lifeguard Age, Correspondence to Officer of Enforcement Policy, U.S. Department of Labor, United States Lifesaving Association, May 2007
- Guidelines for safe recreational water environments Volume 1, Coastal and fresh waters, World Health Organization. Geneva, 2003

Approval

- Approved by the Lifesaving Society Canada Board of Directors on 10 April 2012.

Disclaimer

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

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 and aquatic-related injury.