

## **Change in Certificates and Validity Periods for CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer Program**

### **Overview**

Preparedness and Health and Safety Services conducted a review of the validity length of CPR certification for the professional rescuer based on requests from chapters. All CPR certifications were considered and it was determined that the change to a two-year CPR certificate validity period would be appropriate for professional rescuers other than lifeguards.

Professional rescuers other than lifeguards are in a position to use CPR/AED skills on a regular basis due to job responsibilities. The scientific literature indicates formal retraining can be changed to a biennial occurrence for some rescuers. The review has indicated that skill and knowledge retention can be accomplished through a variety of methods including skill performance, retraining and skills refreshers. Lifeguards are excluded from the two-year certification due to the predominantly seasonal nature of their work. In addition, the American Red Cross Aquatic Examiner Service supports an annual training standard. Therefore the certificate issued for lifeguards will be valid for one year.

Effective January 1, 2009, the American Red Cross announces the following changes to the certificates and validity periods for the CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer course.

1. Certificates issued in a CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer course will be valid for two years except for lifeguards whose certification will remain one year. The certificate issued for these courses will be a new certificate titled **CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer and Healthcare Provider**.
2. The certificate issued to lifeguards will be a new certificate titled **CPR/AED for Lifeguards** which is valid for one year.

Course participants who take a course offered on or after this release are eligible to receive the CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer and Healthcare Provider certificate which is valid for two years. If a recently trained individual wishes to obtain a two-year certificate, they must complete a course (full, review or challenge) on or after the certificate release announcement.

Following both the scientific literature and OSHA recommendations, the Red Cross continues to strongly encourage all professional rescuers to retrain in CPR/AED annually and to refresh their skills at least every six months. The maintenance of skills and knowledge is achieved by a combination of course work including retraining, skills refreshers and application of these skills.

American Red Cross recognizes that government agencies, organizations, and other regulatory bodies have specific certification or training requirements including frequency of training. The policy of a regulatory body regarding re-training supersedes Red Cross certification policy.

### **Data Management**

The guidance in this section applies to the following courses:

- CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer – HSPRO101
- CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer Review – HSPRO101R
- CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer Challenge – HSPRO101C
- Emergency Response – HSPRO103
- Emergency Response Review – HSPRO103R
- Emergency Response Challenge – HSPRO103C

The CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer courses will offer two certificates for participants. Lifeguards taking this course will receive the CPR/AED for Lifeguards certificate valid for one year. All other course participants will receive the CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer and Healthcare Provider certificate, valid for two years. When issuing the CPR/AED for Professional Rescuer and Healthcare Provider certificate or the CPR/AED for Lifeguards certificate, instructors should be reminded that there is no change in the content of the CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer course; only the course name on the certificate is different. Instructors have the option to issue either CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer and Healthcare Provider certificate or CPR/AED for Lifeguards certificate for these courses.

NOTE: If course takers are concerned about receiving a certificate that indicates both Professional Rescuer and Healthcare Provider, instructors have the discretion to issue a single name certificate such as CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer or CPR/AED for the Healthcare Provider.

### **Lifeguarding**

The guidance in this section applies to the following courses:

- Shallow Water Attendant – HSAQU401
- Shallow Water Attendant Review – HSAQU401R
- Shallow Water Attendant Challenge – HSAQU401C
- Lifeguarding – HSAQU402
- Lifeguarding Review – HSAQU402R
- Lifeguarding Challenge – HSAQU402C
- Waterfront Lifeguarding – HSAQU403
- Waterfront Lifeguarding Review – HSAQU403R
- Waterfront Lifeguarding Challenge – HSAQU403C
- Waterpark Lifeguarding – HSAQU404
- Waterpark Lifeguarding Review – HSAQU404R
- Waterpark Lifeguarding Challenge – HSAQU404C
- Shallow Water Attendant to Lifeguarding (Bridge) – HSAQU406
- Shallow Water Attendant to Waterfront Lifeguarding (Bridge) – HSAQU407
- Shallow Water Attendant to Waterpark Lifeguarding (Bridge) – HSAQU408
- Lifeguarding to Waterfront Lifeguarding (Bridge) – HSAQU409
- Lifeguarding to Waterpark Lifeguarding (Bridge) – HSAQU410
- Waterfront Lifeguarding to Waterpark Lifeguarding (Bridge) – HSAQU411
- Waterpark Lifeguarding to Waterfront Lifeguarding (Bridge) – HSAQU412

The CPR/AED certificate issued in all Lifeguarding courses will be the CPR/AED for Lifeguards valid for one year. When issuing the CPR/AED for Lifeguards certificate, instructors should be reminded that there is no change in the content of the CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer component; only the course name on the certificate is different. In the LMS, the default certificate will be CPR/AED for Lifeguards for these courses.

Frequently Asked Questions are available below. If you have additional questions, contact your local chapter.

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

#### **Q. When can we issue the two year CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer and Healthcare Provider certificate?**

**A.** Effective January 1, 2009 the following changes will be implemented: Issue CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer and Healthcare Provider certificate valid for two years and Lifeguards will receive the CPR/AED for Lifeguards certificate valid for one year.

#### **Q. What is the reason for the change?**

**A.** Professional rescuers other than lifeguards are in a position to use CPR/AED skills on a regular basis due to job responsibilities. The scientific literature indicates formal retraining can be changed to a biennial occurrence for some rescuers. The review has indicated that skill and knowledge retention can be accomplished through a variety of methods including skill performance, retraining and skills refreshers. The Red Cross continues to encourage frequent skills practice such as in-service training or review sessions to maintain CPR/AED skills and knowledge.

#### **Q. What program materials are used to issue the CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer and Healthcare Provider certificate?**

**A.** CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer.

#### **Q. What program materials are used to issue the CPR/AED for Lifeguards certificate?**

**A.** Lifeguard Training or CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer.

#### **Q. Is there a new instructor authorization for the CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer and Healthcare Providers certificate?**

**A.** No. Instructors and instructor trainers that teach CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer as part of their authorization can issue a CPR/AED for the Healthcare Provider certificate.

**Q. What programs does this change affect?**

**A.** This change does not affect any current program. The curriculum and delivery are the same.

**Q. Are lifeguards eligible for the two year certificate?**

**A.** No. The CPR/AED for Lifeguards certificate is valid for one year and will be issued to lifeguards.

**Q. How does the change affect regulatory or statutory requirements certification?**

**A.** It is important to remember that state or local government agencies, organizations, and other regulatory bodies have specific certification or training requirements. The policy of the regulatory body supersedes Red Cross policy. It is the responsibility of the student to determine which CPR/AED course is most appropriate for their needs.

**Q. Will this change affect certificates issued prior to this certificate release announcement?**

**A.** No. If a recently trained individual wishes to obtain a two year certificate, they must complete a course (full, review or challenge) on or after the certificate release date. Check with your local chapter for implementation details.

**Q. Does this certification affect the Red Cross and OSHA alliance?**

**A.** No. OSHA recommends annual training and skills refresher every six months. Red Cross continues to strongly encourage these same practices for all CPR/AED certified individuals.

**Q. Can I issue a single name certificate such as CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer OR CPR/AED for the Healthcare Provider?**

**A.** Yes. If a course taker needs a certificate with a single name such as "CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer" the chapter may issue a single name certificate. Certificates should be issued based on the course taker's request.

The dual named certificate provides streamlined administration and is the default certificate issued. The discretion to issue single name certificates provides a customer service option if needed. There are some healthcare facilities that require a two year healthcare provider certificate and some corporate customers that require the professional rescuer certificate. This certificate option provides an opportunity to meet these customer requests.