

# AQUATIC CERTIFICATIONS for NYS Bathing Facilities

**Fact Sheet – February 2025**

(Go to [health.ny.gov](http://health.ny.gov) to view most current certification list)

Standards for aquatic/lifeguard certifications are contained in New York State Sanitary Codes (SSC) [Subpart 6-1](#), Section 6-1.31, Swimming Pools; [Subpart 6-2](#), Section 6-2.20, Bathing Beaches; and [Subpart 7-2](#), Section 7-2.5(g), Children’s Camps. When the SSC requires "lifeguard supervision" or a "qualified lifeguard" at a bathing facility, an approved lifeguard certification SPECIFIC to the type of bathing facility is required.

**NOTES:**

- All lifeguards must possess separate CPR certification in an approved course listed on the [NYS CPR fact sheet](#) unless otherwise indicated in the below table. CPR certificates are valid for **1 year** from course completion, regardless of the expiration date noted on the card.
- Lifeguard certifications shall be valid for the time period specified by the certifying agency but may not exceed a consecutive 3-year period from course completion. Multiyear lifeguard certifications that include CPR require a CPR certification each year.
- Children's camp lifeguards must be at least 17 years of age, except:
  - A maximum of 50% of the required lifeguards on duty at level IIb bathing beaches may be 16 years of age.
  - A maximum of 50% of the required lifeguards on duty at swimming pools may be 15 or 16 years of age.
  - Lifeguards for wilderness swimming must be at least 18 years of age.
- Supervising lifeguards must possess at least Supervision Level IIb certification, be at least 18 years old, and have at least 2 seasons of lifeguarding experience.

ACCEPTED COURSES		SUPERVISION LEVEL <i>Marked boxes indicate acceptability</i>		
PROVIDER	CERTIFICATION TITLE	Level I Surf	Level II b Pool & Beach	Level II a Pool Only
<b>American Red Cross (ARC)</b> * Lifeguarding and First Aid certifications are valid for 2 years from date of issuance. A separate certificate for CPR is not required in the first year of certification. Certification titles that include “Review” are acceptable.  † Waterpark Skills or Waterfront Skills may be a separate certificate accompanying a “Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED” or “Lifeguarding (including Deep Water) with CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and First Aid” certificate.	Lifeguarding (Including Deep Water) with CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and First Aid*			X
	Lifeguarding (Including Deep Water) with CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and First Aid and Waterfront Skills*,†		X	X
	Lifeguarding (Including Deep Water) with CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and First Aid and Waterpark Skills*,†			X
	Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED*			X
	Lifeguarding, Waterpark Skills/First Aid/CPR/ AED*,†			X
	Lifeguarding Basic-Level test for Lifeguarding Instructors			X
	Lifeguarding, Waterfront Skills/First Aid/CPR/ AED*,†		X	X
	Lifeguarding Basic-Level test for Lifeguarding Instructors with Waterfront Skills Certificate		X	X
<b>American Lifeguard Association (ALA)</b> Certificate must state the words “Instructor led”.	Professional Lifeguarding - Instructor Led			X
	Waterpark Lifeguarding - Instructor Led			X
	Waterfront Lifeguarding - Instructor Led		X	X

ACCEPTED COURSES		SUPERVISION LEVEL <i>Marked boxes indicate acceptability</i>		
PROVIDER	CERTIFICATION TITLE	Level I Surf	Level II b Pool & Beach	Level II a Pool Only
<b>American Aquatics &amp; Safety Training</b> Certification titles that include "Recertification" are acceptable.	Lifeguard, CPR/AED, First Aid			X
	Lifeguard, Waterfront, CPR/AED, First Aid		X	X
	Waterfront Lifeguard		X	X
<b>Boy Scouts of America (BSA)</b>	Lifeguard, BSA		X	X
	Aquatics Instructor, BSA		X	X
<b>Breezy Point Cooperative, Inc.</b>	Breezy Point Surf Lifeguard	X		
<b>Cattaraugus County EMS</b>	Cattaraugus County EMS Lifeguard Training Program		X	X
<b>Dryft Ocean Rescue (Dryft Watersports Inc)</b>	Surf Level I	X		
<b>East End Lifeguard Club</b>	Surf Lifeguard – Supervisory Level I	X		
<b>Ellis Education Services (Ellis &amp; Associates, Inc.)</b> <b>International Lifeguard Training Program</b> Certifications are valid for 1 year from date of issuance. Separate certificate for CPR is not required. Valid where maximum water Depth is less than or equal to specified training depth.	Lifeguard Training – Pool			X
	Lifeguard Training – Special Facilities			X
	Lifeguard Training – Open Water		X	X
	Lifeguard Instructor		X	X
	Lifeguard Instructor Trainer		X	X
<b>Hamptons Consortium</b>	Hamptons Consortium Surf Lifeguard	X	X	X
<b>Hamptons Ocean Lifeguard Academy</b>	Surf Lifeguard, Supervision Level 1	X		
<b>Incorporated Village of East Hampton</b>	Surf Lifeguard	X		
<b>Incorporated Village of Saltaire</b>	Ocean Lifeguard Certificate	X		
	Bay Front Lifeguard Certificate		X	
<b>LIFEGUARD-PRO</b> Certifications are valid for 1 year from date of issuance.	LIFEGUARD-SWIMMING POOL			X
	LIFEGUARD-DEEP POOL			X
	LIFEGUARD-WATER PARK			X
	LIFEGUARD-WATERFRONT		X	X
	LIFEGUARD-YOUTH CAMP		X	X
<b>Lifesaving Society (Royal Life Saving Society, Canada)</b> Certifications are valid for 2 years from date of issuance. Certification titles that include "Recert" are acceptable.	National Lifeguard – Pool			X
	National Lifeguard – Waterfront		X	
	National Lifeguard – Surf	X		
	National Lifeguard – Waterpark			X
<b>Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation and Museums</b>	"Day Camp Only"			X
	Grade 1A			X
	Grade 1B			X
	Grade II		X	X
	Grade III	X	X	X

ACCEPTED COURSES		SUPERVISION LEVEL <i>Marked boxes indicate acceptability</i>		
PROVIDER	CERTIFICATION TITLE	Level I Surf	Level II b Pool & Beach	Level II a Pool Only
New York City Department of Parks	Municipal Lifeguard	X	X	X
	Municipal Lifeguard "pool only"			X
Seaview Ocean District	Seaview Ocean District Level 1	X		
Southampton Village Ocean Rescue	Surf Level I Lifeguard	X		
<b>Starfish Aquatics Institute, Inc.</b> Certifications are valid for 1 year from date of issuance. Certificate must specify "Meets NY State Department of Health regulations." Separate certificate for CPR is not required. * "Waterfront" must <u>not</u> be crossed out in "Specialty Module Training" section of certification card.	STARGUARD Lifeguard Certification Program Lifeguard Certification Card			X
	StarGuard Best Practices for Lifeguards with Waterfront Specialty Module Training*		X	X
<b>StarGuard Elite</b> Competency Assessment & Performance Record serves as proof of certification. Certifications are valid for 1 year from date of issuance. Certificate must specify "Meets NY State Department of Health Regulations." Separate certificate for CPR is not required. Valid at facilities equal to or less than the water competency depth specified on the certificate.	SGE Lifeguard			X
	SGE Lifeguard with Open Water Module (Under additional options, "Open Water" must be checked.)		X	X
Suffolk County Department of Parks	Ocean Lifeguard Training	X		
	Stillwater Lifeguard Training Course		X	
Town of Babylon	Ocean Lifeguard	X	X	X
	Stillwater Lifeguard Training Course		X	X
Town of Brookhaven	Ocean Theory Course	X	X	X
Town of East Hampton	Surf Lifeguard	X	X	X
	Pool and Beach Lifeguard		X	X
Town of Islip	Surf Lifeguard	X	X	X
	Pool and Beach Lifeguard		X	X
Town of Southampton	Ocean Lifeguard	X	X	X
	Stillwater Lifeguard		X	X
Village of Ocean Beach	Ocean Beach Atlantic Ocean Lifeguard Course	X	X	X
YMCA	YMCA Lifeguard v6 Certification		X	X

**SHALLOW WATER CERTIFICATIONS**  
 (Acceptable for Supervision Level IIa at shallow pools as indicated below)

PROVIDER	CERTIFICATION TITLE	VALID AT POOLS WITH MAXIMUM WATER DEPTH:
<p><b>American Red Cross (ARC)</b>            Certifications are valid for 2 years from date of issuance.</p> <p>A separate certificate for CPR is not required in the first year of certification. Certification titles that include "Review" are acceptable.</p> <p>* Depth specified on Shallow Water Lifeguarding certificate may be <b>5'</b>, <b>6'</b>, or <b>7'</b>.</p> <p>** Depth specified on Shallow Water Lifeguarding certificate may be <b>5 ft</b>, <b>6 ft</b>, or <b>7 ft</b>.</p>	Aquatic Attraction Lifeguarding (Water ≤ 3') with CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and First Aid	3 feet or less
	Shallow Water Lifeguarding (Water up to [specified depth*]) with CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and First Aid	5, 6, or 7 feet or less, depending on water depth specified on certification.
	Shallow Water Lifeguarding (up to [specified depth**])/First Aid/CPR/AED	5, 6, or 7 feet or less, depending on water depth specified on certification
	Aquatic Attraction Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED	3 feet or less
<p><b>American Lifeguard Association (ALA)</b>            Certificate must state the words "Instructor Led".</p>	Shallow Water Lifeguarding - Instructor Led	4 feet or less
<p><b>American Aquatics and Safety Training</b>            Certification titles that include "Recertification" are acceptable.</p>	Shallow Pool Lifeguard, CPR/AED, First Aid	5 feet or less
<p><b>Ellis Education Services (Ellis &amp; Associates, Inc.)</b>  <b>International Lifeguard Training Program</b>            Certifications are valid for 1 year from date of issuance.            Separate certificate for CPR is not required.</p>	Lifeguard Training – Shallow	5 feet or less
<p><b>LIFEGUARD-PRO</b>            Certifications are valid for 1 year from date of issuance.</p>	LIFEGUARD-SHALLOW POOL	5 feet or less