

1. **TITLE:** **LICENSING AND THE TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT OF SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY TEACHERS**
2. **DATE ISSUED:** 2 April 2013 **ISSUE:** 3
3. **PURPOSE:** To outline the requirements for those employed as swimming and water safety teachers regarding:
 1. Licensing
 2. Training and Assessment
4. **DESCRIPTION**

This Guideline addresses two areas relating to swimming and water safety teachers who are employed to deliver learn to swim and water safety programs; requirements for licensing, and training and assessment. The Training and Assessment section describes the basis for entry level knowledge and skill acquisition required by those wanting to commence employment as a swimming and water safety teacher. The Licensing section describes the key requirements for ongoing verification that swimming and water safety teachers meet agreed industry standards and best practice.
5. **LICENSING**
 - 5.1 **Licensing Schemes**

The licensing scheme must include the following requirements for swimming and water safety teachers:

 - 5.1.1 **Evidence of Training**
 - a) Licensing requires evidence of competency based training and assessment as outlined in Section 6 of this Guideline.
 - b) For those teaching specialist groups, e.g. infant and pre-school aquatics, adults or people with disabilities, swimming and water safety teachers should undertake additional training appropriate to that group as outlined in Section 6 of this Guideline.
 - 5.1.2 **Practical Assessment**

Licensing should include a practical assessment of the swimming and water safety teacher's personal aquatic and teaching skills by a representative of the licensing/certifying body.
 - 5.1.3 **Resuscitation and Emergency Care**

- a) Licensing must include verification of a current Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certificate issued by a Registered Training Organisation.
- b) The Australian Resuscitation Council recognises CPR certificates as being current for one year. It is the individual's responsibility to ensure currency of this certification.
- c) Due to the nature of this role it is essential that this certification covers vital elements of rescue breathing as it relates to drowning victims.

5.1.4 Rescue Competency

Swimming and water safety teachers have a responsibility to ensure the safety of all participants within their class. Due to the nature of their role, swimming and water safety teachers should be able to identify and respond to an aquatic emergency and it is therefore recommended that swimming and water safety teachers maintain additional competencies in aquatic rescue (refer also GSPO Guidelines PR3 Standards of Competency in Aquatic Rescue for Swimming and Water Safety Teachers).

5.1.5 Evidence of Ongoing Professional Development

Swimming and water safety teachers have an obligation to undertake regular professional development to maintain competency with current standards in areas of safety and swim teaching methodology. Licensing must include a process of verification of ongoing professional development. Membership of a professional body does not by itself constitute professional development.

5.2 Consultation

To ensure licensing appropriately reflects the needs of industry and current standards of professional competence the licensing body should have the ability to engage relevant stakeholders in the development and review of policies and principles regarding the content and functioning of the licensing system.

5.3 Existing Licensing Schemes

The AUSTSWIM Teacher Licence is the current standard for the licensing of swimming and water safety teachers. AUSTSWIM has undertaken licensing of swimming and water safety teachers since 1979. The AUSTSWIM licensing scheme complies with this criteria through:

- a) Requiring and citing evidence of training and assessment.
- b) Reinforcing the need for CPR certification.
- c) Reinforcing the need for training and assessment in rescue skills.
- d) Requiring evidence of ongoing professional development.
- e) Having specific mechanisms to engage industry in all decision making in relation to licensing via its governance structure including membership by the Australian Leisure

Facilities Association, Royal Life Saving Society – Australia, Surf Life Saving Australia, Swimming Australia, YMCA and state and territory advisory committees.

6. TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 a) Training and assessment for swimming and water safety teachers must be competency based. These competencies are currently governed by Service Skills Australia and are as follows:

- SISCAQU202A Perform basic water rescues
- SISCAQU308A Instruct water familiarization, buoyancy and mobility skills
- SISCAQU309A Instruct clients in water safety and survival skills
- SISCAQU310A Instruct swimming strokes
- SISCCRO302A Apply legal and ethical instructional skills

These competencies are subject to ongoing review and change by Service Skills Australia. For current versions of these competencies, refer to www.training.gov.au.

- b) Training and assessment should include a period of supervised on the job training and assessment.
- c) The Australian Quality Training Framework dictates that this training and assessment be provided by a Registered Training Organisation.
- d) In a best practice model, the final assessment of the swimming and water safety teacher should be conducted by someone who has not, up to that time, participated in the candidate's training and assessment.

6.2 Extension Programs

For those teaching specialist groups, e.g. infant and pre-school aquatics, adults or people with disabilities, swimming and water safety teachers should undertake additional training and assessment appropriate to that group. The extension program should involve the following:

- a) Training and assessment in the teaching of the specified target group
- b) Supervised on-the-job training in the teaching of the specified target group
- c) Practical on-the-job assessment in the teaching of the specified target group

Refer to GSPO Guidelines PR5 and PR6 for further information.

7. EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) It is the employer's responsibility to check:
- the status of an individual's training and assessment and licensing



- the currency of the licensing
 - that employees are capable of performing to the standard required whenever they are involved in a swimming and water safety program
- b) The required competencies in the training of a swimming and water safety teacher are an indication of the competence of the individual at the time of the assessment. Regular training is required to ensure that adequate standards are maintained.
- c) Employers should also conduct a “Working with Children” check or equivalent as required by relevant State or Territory legislation, prior to employing a swimming and water safety teacher.

8. REFERENCES / FURTHER INFORMATION

- GSPO Guideline PR5 Infant And Preschool Aquatic Programs
- GSPO Guideline PR6 Aquatic Programs for People with Disabilities
- Australian Resuscitation Council Guideline 9.1.1, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training
- Practice Note 15 Water Safety, 2005, Department of Local Government, NSW
- Service Skills Australia, www.serviceskills.com.au
- Standards for State and Territory Registering/Course Accrediting Bodies, 2005, Australian National Training Authority
- AS ISO/IEC 17024 – 2004 Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons, 2004, Standards Australia.
- AUSTSWIM Standards for Teachers of Swimming and Water Safety, 2011, Australian Council for the Teaching of Swimming and Water Safety (AUSTSWIM).

9. PREVIOUS ISSUES

- Guideline PR1 Standard of Swimming Teacher Education, Issue 2, July 1996
- Guideline LTS1 Standard of Swimming Teacher Education, Issue 1, August 1991