



Surf Life Saving Australia – Circular

August 2003

Proficiency Testing

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Department Lifesaving	
Summary This circular provides minimum proficiency test requirements for the 2003/ 04 season.	
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All active lifesavers are required to complete a proficiency test to prove competency in the lifesaving award/s they hold and wish to remain current in. Proficiency tests are necessary to:

- ensure ongoing competency of members in their area of training and activities
- maintain the standards of knowledge and expertise of surf life savers
- satisfy legal and statutory requirements
- reinforce and maintain our service commitment to the bathing and beach going community

A member's proficiency is valid until the 31st December each year and where stated in the Surf Life Saving Training Manual (or SLSA Bulletins) must be assessed annually.

When a proficiency check is successfully completed (or a member gains a relevant award after 30 June, in a particular year) the proficiency or qualification is current until 31st December, in the following season.

Director's of Lifesaving may include additional checks in cases where there is doubt of a member's proficiency in aspects of another award.

A member may be requested at anytime during the season to complete an additional proficiency check by the Club, an Assessor or authorised SLS Official. A member who fails a proficiency check at anytime during the season is deemed to be non-proficient until such time as another proficiency check is completed successfully. Further, this member cannot participate in patrol activities or compete at carnivals until the proficiency check has been completed successfully.



Any member who did not successfully complete the appropriate proficiency check in the immediate season prior, is not permitted to patrol or compete until such time as a proficiency check is completed successfully.

Each State will be responsible for describing the appointment of Assessors for proficiency testing.

The requirements below detail the minimum national requirements as ratified by the National Board of Lifesaving. Additional requirements may be included by the State Director of Lifesaving.

Bronze Medallion and Surf Rescue Certificate Proficiencies for Season 2003/04

The proficiency test for the Bronze Medallion for the 2003/04 season will be:

- Run Swim Run
- Rescues (choose 1 of two)
- Resuscitation (CPR – for BM and SRC 15 years and over, EAR for SRC).
- Signals
- A theory paper (open book) that includes OH&S, teams, communication and oxygen therapy*

*Note: Oxygen therapy section will not be included in the Surf Rescue Certificate section of the paper.

Spinal board carries and oxygen demonstration will be included in the proficiency test in 2004/05 season.

Run Swim Run

Run distances and Swim distances for the Bronze Medallion and Surf Rescue Certificate:

- Be taken from waist deep water, e.g. the run is from a flag, around a marker and to waist deep water, the swim is from waist deep water around two swimming buoys and back to waist deep water
- Course must be around two swimming buoys

Distances

Surf Rescue Certificate	100m Run / 100m Swim / 100m Run
Bronze Medallion	200m Run / 200m Swim / 200m Run

Resuscitation

A patient assessment on a live patient and demonstration of lateral position.

EAR/CPR*, 1 and 2 person (adult or child or infant) on a manikin. To include resuscitation using a mask

*CPR for BM and SRC holders 15 years and over.



Rescues

A random selection of either a board or tube rescue is selected by the assessor.

Theory Paper

An open book (using the 32nd edition of the SLS Training Manual) theory paper of 20 questions will be conducted. Candidates should achieve 100% pass mark. Assessors may follow up on questions at the end of the assessment to ensure candidates have a correct understanding of the theory.

Other Awards

Resuscitation Certificates

Award holders must successfully complete a proficiency check, showing their competence in resuscitation techniques.

Resuscitation

- Under 15 years of age:
 - EAR, 1 person (adult or child or infant) on a manikin .
- Over 15 years of age:
 - EAR/CPR, 1 and 2 person (adult or child or infant) on a manikin
 - To include Resuscitation methods using a mask.

A patient assessment on a live patient and demonstration of lateral position.

Awards involving resuscitation are to be assessed annually. Once proficiency is achieved, resuscitation in other award proficiencies is not required.

Advanced Resuscitation Certificate (ARC)

Award holders must successfully complete a proficiency check, showing their competence in resuscitation techniques, Oxy Viva operation, neck brace application and the insertion of an Oropharyngeal Airway.

Resuscitation

EAR/CPR, 1 and 2 person (adult or child or infant) on a manikin.
A patient assessment on a live patient and demonstration of lateral position.

Oxy Viva Operation

Use of air bag resuscitator on conscious/unconscious patient (s), e.g. therapy and resuscitation.

Spinal Collar

Measurement and application of a Spinal Collar on a live patient.

Oropharyngeal Airways



Correct measurement and insertion of an Oropharyngeal Airway (on a manikin where possible).
Candidates must have an understanding of when and why an airway is introduced into resuscitation.

IRB/ RWC Drivers

All IRB/RWC Drivers must successfully complete a proficiency check for Bronze Medallion holders as outlined, and successfully demonstrate their competence in current IRB/RWC driving techniques. At a minimum must perform the following:

Five questions on safety and the SLSA Powercraft Code of Conduct.

Demonstrate effective and safe driving practice and ability including but not limited to:

- parallel running,
- figures eight
- response to signals,
- negotiation of surf as required,

Other driving skills to be deemed as competent.

Demonstrate patient rescue.

Demonstrate patient lift, exit, carry, lay and assess.

For RWC operators they must also be able to reboard the craft from deep water.

IRB Crew

IRB crew who completed the in-depth proficiency or obtained the IRB crew award (16yo) last season will need to complete the following:

Five questions on safety and the SLSA Powercraft Code of Conduct.

Demonstrate effective and safe crewing practice and ability including but not limited to:

- parallel running,
- figures eight
- response to signals,
- negotiation of surf as required,

Other crewing skills to be deemed as competent.

Demonstrate patient rescue.

IRB Crew Award In-Depth Proficiency

IRB personnel may again this season use the in-depth proficiency under the below conditions:

From January 1 2003 IRB crew will need to hold the new Award (16yo IRB Crew Award). This may be completed one of two ways;

Full assessment of new competencies - for candidates who have obtained their Bronze Medallion after July 1 2002.

Recognition of Current Competence - for candidates who have obtained their Bronze Medallion or 14yo IRB Crew Award prior to July 1 2002. This will include an in-depth proficiency bridging the



gap between the learning outcomes in the current awards and the new competencies in the 16yo IRB Crew Award.

In-Depth Proficiency for IRB Crew Award assessed by an IRB assessor

Check IRB

Knowledge of pre operational and post operational checks by oral and practical demonstration.
Demonstrate knowledge of IRB operation by way of oral questions.

Crewing

Candidates must demonstrate competency in crewing an IRB by, simulating different crewing positions, explaining different crewing positions and by demonstrating different crewing positions.

Rescue

IRB pick up of either a conscious or unconscious patient

Scenario

Candidates must perform at least one of the following scenarios or combinations of; tube rescue, laying a buoy, rescue near rocks/jetty, mass rescue, righting an IRB without a motor, search and rescue or transferring between craft.

Please Note: IRB drivers do not have to undertake the IRB Crew In-depth Proficiency because crewing is a part of the current outcomes for IRB Drivers, and although it is a requirement that each driver is a proficient crewperson, this will be assessed as part of the normal driver proficiencies. These driver proficiencies at Clubs are run by Club Lifesaving Advisor/s or the nominated person/s as approved by the Branch/State Director of Lifesaving

Silver Medallion Life Support / Patrol Captain

No proficiency is required for these awards. Proficiency is required in the prerequisites for the awards to remain current. (eg You must remain current in first aid for the Silver Medallion Life Support)

Specialist Powercraft Awards (JRB/ORB)

Proficiencies for specialist groups shall be determined by the individual group and as approved by the relevant Branch/State Director of Lifesaving.

Trainer and Assessor

Assessors

Participate in an annual Board of Lifesaving proficiency check or attend an in-service course as required by Surf Life Saving Australia, for the respective discipline or disciplines.

Be endorsed by the branch or state/territory Board of Lifesaving.