

Certificate Extension Guidance during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Following the UK lockdown of homes & businesses the HSE and related governing bodies have issued statements relating to the first aid training and the renewal of first aid training qualifications. This document provides further details from each sector on the revalidation of first aid training and the extension of any certificate renewal dates.

HSE Statement on First Aid Requalification

First aid during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is aware that people holding Offshore Medic (OM), Offshore First Aid (OFA), First Aid at Work (FAW) or Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) certificates nearing expiry date, might experience disruption to access to requalification training as a result of events or circumstances generated by the coronavirus pandemic.

HSE's current guidance on the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l174.pdf> and the Offshore Installations and Pipeline Works (First-Aid) Regulations 1989 <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l123.pdf> is that those holding an OM, OFA, FAW or EFAW qualification should undertake retraining before their original certificate expires and HSE strongly recommends that employers, and individuals holding those qualifications should plan for requalification training well in advance of expiry dates.

If however requalification training is prevented for reasons associated directly with coronavirus or by complying with related government advice, it is reasonable and practical to extend the validity of current certificates by up to 3 months. Anyone taking advantage of this extension should be able to describe clearly their reasons for delaying requalification training, and demonstrate steps they have taken to undertake the training, if required.

This guidance comes into effect for certificates expiring on or after 16th March 2020. HSE will review this matter over the coming months and will issue further statements as necessary.

Source: www.hse.gov.uk/news/first-aid-certificate-coronavirus.htm

Department for Education Statement on Paediatric First Aid certificates

Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update

If your paediatric first aid certificate is due to expire, the DfE has set a final deadline of 30 September 2020 for re-qualification of first aid requirements, which applies to certificates expiring on or after 16 March 2020. The Health and Safety Executive has the [same date](#) for re-qualification for First Aid at Work (FAW) and Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW).

The DfE has updated its [guidance around early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) disapplications](#) to state that providers, if asked to do so, should be able to explain why the first-aider has not been able to requalify and demonstrate what steps have taken to access the training. Employers or certificate holders must do their best to arrange requalification training at the earliest opportunity.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update>

Institute for Outdoor Learning Statement for Outdoor First Aid qualifications

IOL Outdoor First Aid Statement COVID-19

The HSE has announced a possible 3 month extension to the validity for Offshore Medic (OM), Offshore First Aid (OFA), First Aid at Work (FAW) or Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) certificates coming up for renewal on or after 16th March during the current Covid crisis.

In line with the above statement, and the IOL Statement of Good Practice on Outdoor First Aid Training, the Institute view is that Outdoor First Aid courses should be treated in a similar way and a 3 month extension to the validity of Outdoor First Aid (1 Day), Outdoor First Aid (2 Day) and Outdoor First Aid (Advanced) certificates be available to these people able to describe clearly their reasons for delaying requalification training, and demonstrate the steps they have taken to undertake the training, if required.

Source: <https://feedback.facebook.com/Outdoor.Learning.Professionals/photos/a.164082140310047/3109052739146291/?type=3&theater>