

How many times does a competency need to be demonstrated in any one 12 month period?

The LSC has agreed that each component of a required proficiency/recertification need only be demonstrated once in any one (12 month) season. For example, this means that a member who has successfully completed the CPR component of their ARTC need not repeat the proficiency testing for that part of the Bronze Medallion/Cert II proficiency.

Note that this principle was set out, for resuscitation, in Circular 02-10/11 on page 5.

However, for clarification, this applies to all equivalent components of a proficiency/recertification requirement.

1. Each component of proficiency must be demonstrated at least once in a 12 month period.
2. Once assessed as competent/proficient in a component, the member is deemed competent/proficient for that component in all other awards that that member wishes to be proficient in e.g. a proficient ARTC member will be deemed to be proficient in the CPR component of the Bronze/Cert II and all other awards that required CPR as a component of recertification/proficiency.

The member will need to supply evidence of the successful completion of the required competency

Fitness testing

The principle outlined above also applies to fitness testing, in other words, a fitness test for a higher award, say the Gold Medallion, will be evidence that a member has passed the fitness component of the Bronze Medallion/Cert II (Run/Swim/Run) proficiency.

Note that it is expected that all patrolling members maintain their minimum fitness levels for the awards that they wish to remain proficient in and that Circular 2-10/11 notes that "A member may be requested at anytime during the season to complete an additional proficiency check by the Club, an Assessor or authorized SLS Official.

Timing of proficiencies

Currently the majority of proficiencies expire as at 31st December in each year. Note that this date is July 31st in Northern Australia. The Apply First Aid is an exception.

Note also that Circular 2-10/11 states that "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.

This means that, if a member gains their Gold Medallion after 30th June in year 1, then that award is current until 31st December in the next year (year 2). For example, this will mean that a member, who has obtained their Gold Medallion in October 2010, will not need to do the fitness or rescue components of the Bronze Medallion/Cert II by December 2010. They will however, have to do the other components that are not assessed in the Gold Medallion, such as radio, signals and CPR. However, if radio, signals and CPR are assessed during the Gold Medallion scenario, these may also be deemed to have been assessed as proficient for the Bronze Medallion/Cert II.

Again, evidence will need to be obtained that each section/competency of the award that the member is looking to be deemed proficient in, has been completed at least once in that 12 month period.

When is a member eligible to patrol?

A member is eligible to patrol from the time that they are deemed competent in the relevant award. For example, on the day that a new member obtains their Bronze Medallion/Cert II, they are deemed competent and can start patrol duties that day. For clarity, they do not have to wait for the paperwork to be processed.

A member can continue to patrol while the award that the member has remains current, that is, the date for the annual recertification/proficiency has not expired.

For Further Information

For further information and/or clarification contact the State/Territory Director of Lifesaving.