

RLSS UK Emergency Response Pool (ER Pool)

RLSS UK ER Pool Overview

The ER Pool qualification and courses are administered by RLSS UK and the minimum contact training time for this course is 14 hours with a maximum of 8 hours contact time per day, excluding break periods and changing time. Structured training will be in accordance with the syllabus.

The course comprises of physical training and theoretical classroom work, followed by a practical in-water and out-of-water assessment on pool rescue, first aid, CPR and lifesaving skills.

ER Pool is Level 1 equivalent qualification.

Why do we need the ER Pool Qualification?

Paragraph 193 of the HSE publication "Managing Health and Safety in Swimming Pools" states – "Whenever the pool is in use, a member of staff will need to be designated as "on call" to respond immediately to the alarm and deal with any emergency. It is essential that such staff are trained in pool rescue, CPR techniques and first aid."

The Emergency Response (Pool) is designed to assist operators to meet these requirements.

Who does the ER Pool qualification apply to?

Pool operators owe a duty to users to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that they are safe whenever they are using the swimming and any ancillary facilities. In recognising that direct supervision is not to be provided, there must be sufficient staff available 'on call' who are able to respond effectively to any foreseeable emergency.

For example:

- Fitness Instructors
- Receptionists
- Engineers
- Catering
- Supervisors

This qualification can also be used to back up the lifeguard team.

ER Pool Course Content

The ER Pool content is split over 4 areas which comprise of:

- Pool safety theory
- Life Support
- Emergency first aid and management of:
- Water rescue skills

ER Pool Assessment

RLSS Courses	First Aid Courses	AED Courses	Food Safety Courses	Pool Plant Courses	Health & Safety Courses
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This qualification is assessed by continuous competency based assessment throughout the course. Throughout the course the TA must be assured that each candidate is suitably trained and is capable of demonstrating the practical skills and demonstrate an understanding of the full syllabus of skills. The TA can ask a number of oral questions of the candidates to test knowledge. This may be backed up with a review at the end of the 14 hours with a further set of face to face questions and demonstration of practical skills to confirm competence.

Ongoing Training

Pool operators have a statutory responsibility to provide appropriate training to staff that may have to undertake the response to an emergency. It is important to recognise that, due to the nature of the skills involved, regular in-house refresher training is an essential part of this duty to maintain competence.

Candidates

Must be 16 years of age prior to the commencing a course of training due to the continual assessment of the candidate for this award.

Dress

Candidate must wear suitable swimwear underneath t-shirt and shorts for the pool sections.

Validity

The Emergency Response Certificate (Swimming Pools) is valid for 24 months after successful course completion. Where it is necessary for holders to maintain evidence of competence, the certificate must be renewed within the validity period.

The pool operator will need to complete a site specific induction in line with the employer's duty.

Renewals

Candidates who show evidence of having completed ongoing training and competency based assessment throughout the qualification period, covering the full range of skills prior to undertaking a renewal programme may undertake a 7 hour refresher course. Throughout the course the TA must be assured that each candidate is suitably trained and is capable of demonstrating the practical skills and demonstrate an understanding of the full syllabus of skills. The trainer assessor can ask a number of oral questions of the candidates to test knowledge. This may be backed up with a review at the end of the 7 hours with a further set of face to face questions and demonstration of practical skills to confirm competence.

Course Documentation

Candidates will receive an ER Pool booklet that includes full details of the qualification.

Certification

Completed assessment reports will be forwarded to IQL for processing. A carbon copy of the Assessment Report Form will be retained by the candidate as proof of successfully gaining the award. IQL will despatch, by normal post, the ER Pool certificate to the candidate's home address.

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