



COVID-19 Update: Reauthorization and Certification Cards **April 9, 2020 • Health & Safety Institute**

As government, individuals, organizations, companies and countries across the world step up to combat the COVID-19 crisis, we are continuing to receive questions from our Training Centers regarding extensions for expiration of Instructor and Instructor Trainer authorization periods and student certification cards. With this update, we want to help answer your questions.

Instructor and Instructor Trainer Reauthorization

Effective today, April 9, 2020, Health & Safety Institute (HSI) is extending the authorization period by 120 days for all currently Authorized Instructors or Instructor Trainers whose two-year authorization period ends between March 1 and August 1, 2020. HSI will take responsibility for managing this extension by automatically extending the authorization period.

For example, if an instructor's authorization is set to expire on May 20, 2020, their authorization period will be automatically extended to September 20, 2020. Their Instructor Authorization card in the Otis Learning Manager Portal will reflect the new expiration date. This extension of the authorization period may be increased or more widely applied based on the rapidly evolving COVID-19 public health crisis.

Certification Cards

Effective today, April 9, 2020, HSI is recommending the expiration period of a legitimately issued certification card be extended 120 days. In the current public health emergency, HSI presumes that both employers and regulatory agencies who require emergency care training and certification for licensing or employment will be reasonably lenient about expiration dates and work requirements. This leniency is the role of employers and regulators, not HSI. Employment policies established by the individual employer dictate the conditions of employment. Employers create the policies and have the authority to amend them, especially when facing extraordinary operational pressures. Employers may choose to waive requirements for current certification or extend the period they will accept a legitimately issued certification card.

Where state regulations require employers, their employees, or individuals licensed by the state to maintain current certification, regulatory agencies have the authority to exercise enforcement discretion, implement temporary rules and waive licensing and related requirements. Both state legislatures and regulatory agencies are quickly moving to do so in response to COVID-19, especially in health care and other essential services. For an overview go to: <https://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/covid-19-occupational-licensing-in-public-emergencies.aspx>