



Disclosure & Barring Service

Lifeguards

Jurisdiction: England & Wales

Leisure Centre Pool and beach lifeguards

Eligibility can exist for lifeguards to be asked to apply for a DBS check.

From details we've been provided on the role (based on Royal Life Saving Society guidance and in collaboration with the NSPCC), we can advise that lifeguards are expected to supervise the users of the pool or beach; which will include children. This is regardless of whether the children are accompanied by adults.

Because of this expectation, lifeguards are carrying out work with children and therefore are eligible to be asked to apply for an enhanced level DBS certificate in the child workforce **without** a check of any barred lists.

In addition, if an individual lifeguard is carrying out this supervision in line with the period condition, i.e. on more than 3 days in a 30 day period, then they are carrying out regulated activity with children and would be eligible to be asked to apply for an enhanced level DBS certificate **with** a check of the children's barred list.

There is no indication that lifeguards perform any activities which would mean they are carrying out work with adults or regulated activity with adults. This is because the specific nature of the work does not fall within the legislative criteria. So although they are eligible to be asked to apply for a DBS certificate in the child workforce with a check of the children's barred list in specific circumstances, certificates for pool and beach lifeguards should not be applied for in the adult workforce or with an adults' barred list check.

This guidance is correct at the time of printing. If you require further information, please contact DBS Customer Services or seek legal advice.