



Credentialing Committee Recommendation to the IGC: Course Expiration and Frequently asked Questions

Background: In response to action taken by the IRWA Board of Directors at its June 2016 meeting, the Credentialing Committee was asked to recommend a new solution to 5-year course expiration.

Recommendation: The consensus decision from the committee is to recommend that: **10 years be allowed beyond the RWA level to take courses towards an RWP or SR/WA certification and there is no time limit or expiration for RWA courses or certification with the exception of Ethics.** That recommendation was approved by the International Governing Council on September 2, 2016 for immediate implementation.

Rationale: A 10-year window should allow more flexibility in chapter course scheduling and for those with limited resources to take education courses beyond the RWA level. On the road to this recommendation, various alternatives were reviewed. It was acknowledged that the feedback from most of those who did not support the previous 5-year course expiration did support some type of limit or time frame, but that 5 years was too short for chapter education planning as well as for those members with limited resources for attending courses. There was also concern for members stating a need to take courses out of sequence due to employer work task training needs or other reasons and how for instance an SR/WA level course might become out of date before completing the RWP and remaining SR/WA coursework. 7-year course expiration was discussed. A 10 year course expiration was discussed which would in essence allow someone 30 years to attain SR/WA which seemed unreasonable. It was brought up again that perhaps the generalist pathway could have no limit but the specialty pathway would have a limit, but it was acknowledged that this might be more confusing for members.

Questions and Answers:

Q1: What was the recommendation of the Credentialing Committee?

A: It was recommended that a 10-year expiration timeframe be allowed for courses required for the Right of Way Professional (RWP) and IRWA's Senior Right of Way (SR/WA) designation.

Q2: What about the Right of Way Agent Certification (RWA)?

A: There is no time limit or expiration for courses required for the RWA certification with the exception of Ethics, which must be renewed every five years.

Q3: Do the RWP and SR/WA Certifications expire?

A: Yes, they expire five years from the approval date unless you complete the recertification requirements due every five years.

Q4: What are the recertification requirements for the RWP and SR/WA? Are they different from previous requirements?

A: There is no change to the number of hours required for RWP or SR/WA recertification, however in a separate announcement there will be a change in the available categories of required CEUs.

Q5: How about the RWA?

A: There continues to be no recertification requirement for the RWA Certification.

Q6: What is the benefit of the 10-year course expiration compared to the previous 5-year course expiration?

A: It allows you to take required courses out of sequence as they become available or as needed for specialty certifications. It also provides more time for chapters to plan and schedule their classes.

Q7: What is the start date for 10-year course expiration for the RWP and SR/WA?

A: The 10-year period begins on the day the first required course for the RWP or SR/WA is completed.

Q8: Is it a 10-year course expiration time limit for the RWP, then another 10 years for the SR/WA?

A: No, it is 10 years total for the RWP and SR/WA.

Q9: What happens when the required course(s) expires?

A: The course(s) must be retaken.

Q10: What happens at the end of the 10-year period if I have completed the coursework required for the RWP, but have not taken any of the coursework required for the SR/WA? Am I out of luck?

A: Yes, the IRWA will allow up to 10 years total for RWP and/or the SR/WA course work. You are encouraged to apply for the RWP Certification before the end of the 10-year period if your goal is to attain both the RWP certification and SR/WA designation.

Q11: So how do I prevent required courses from expiring?

A: It requires planning. If you see that you have qualifying education for the RWP that will expire soon, then accelerate your plans to complete the remaining courses online or for classroom courses, in time to apply for RWP Certification within your 10-year timeframe.