



September 10, 2020

To: SPRAT Members, Technicians and Evaluation Hosts:

On September 3, 2020, SPRAT's Board of Directors reviewed the organization's initial response to COVID-19. Following this review SPRAT's Board of Directors has granted a 60-day extension of the variances from the expiry date of the original notice to provide a transition period for rope access technicians and employers operating rope access programs.

**As of November 16th, 2020:**

1. Employers operating rope access programs with rope access technicians whose certifications have expired will no longer be considered to be operating in accordance with SPRAT's *Safe Practices for Rope Access Work* standard (ref. Section 3.3.1.).
2. The hours accrued by expired rope access technicians will no longer be applicable towards certification advancement (ref. Section 5.5.2. of SPRAT's *Certification Requirements for Rope Access Work*).
3. Regardless of circumstances, rope access technicians with expired certifications will NOT be considered current when they attend their next certification session (ref. Section 5.5.3. of *Certification Requirements for Rope Access Work*).

SPRAT remains dedicated to the promotion of the safe application of rope access, and remains unwavering in its support for SPRAT membership, SPRAT rope access technicians, and the rope access industry. SPRAT remains sensitive to the constantly evolving nature of the ongoing pandemic. This includes observing periodic local and international travel restrictions, gathering sizes, and required personal protective measures, such as face coverings and hand washing, that may impact the certification process. SPRAT's Evaluations Committee is researching the viability of conducting remote evaluation sessions to alleviate these ongoing concerns.

SPRAT-certified rope access technicians and/or employers operating rope access programs that believe it is infeasible or an undue burden to comply with the expiration of these variances should contact the SPRAT office at [info@sprat.org](mailto:info@sprat.org).

Sincerely,

Troll (William McCook), SPRAT President

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**Society of Professional Rope Access Technicians**

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