

# All for One Standard & One Standard For All!! Are Your First Aid Kits Up-to-Date?

### Why did we need a new standard?

Many EU states have a national standard for workplace first aid kits, until now, the UK did not. The BHTA guidelines, established in 1997 were in need of revision because training protocols have changed, there are heightened concerns with infection control, and new medical devices are now available at affordable prices.

#### The New BS8599-1 Compliant First Aid Kit meets customer demand, and so much more

BS-8599-1 Compliant kits have been designed to be more user friendly in a way that makes the contents instantly visible and more secure, this in turn has helped to improve and simplify selection for employers and specifiers to meet their legal and moral obligations.

### What the law says

The Health and Safety (First Aid) regulations 1981 states:- "An employer shall provide or ensure that there are provided such equipment and facilities as are adequate and appropriate in the circumstances for enabing first aid to be rendered to his employees if they are injured or become ill at work". The new British Standard Kits are now the only safe and clear way for an employer to meet their obligations.

#### What size do I require?

Employers are required to make a risk assessment to decide what the hazard levels are and how many employees are involved in the area to be covered. There is a useful guide provided to help match this risk assessment to an appropriate size kit.

Category Of Hazard	Number Of Employees	Size Of First Aid Kits		
LOW HAZARD e.g. shops, offices, libraries etc.	Less than 25 25 – 100 more than 100	Small Medium Large (1 per 100 employees)		
HIGH HAZARD  e.g. light engineering and assembly work, food processing, warehousing, extensive work with dangerous machinery or sharp instruments, construction, chemical manufacture etc.	Less than 5 5 – 25 more than 25	Small Medium large (1 per 25 employees)		

# Whats in the First Aid Kits?

Table 1 -Contents of a BS8599-1 compliant workplace first aid kit						
Component	Description	Quantity				
		Small	Medium	Large	Travel*	
<b>Guidance Leaflet</b>	Provides brief first aid guidelines	1	1	1	1	
Contents List	Provides a list of first aid kit components included in kit		1	1	1	
Medium Sterile Dressing	Conforming bandage: min. 7.5 cm width and min. 2 m stretched length, with an absorbent pad: not less than 12 cm $\times$ 12 cm	4	6	8	1	
Large Sterile Dressing	Conforming bandage: min. 10 cm width and min. 2 m stretched length, with an absorbent pad: not less than 18 cm $\times$ 18 cm	1	2	2	1	
Triangular Bandage	Min. of 20 gsm non-woven material or cotton, not less than 90 cm × 90 cm × 127 cm	2	3	4	1	
Safety Pins	Min. length of 2.5 cm	6	12	24	2	
Eye Pad Sterile Dressing	Conforming bandage: min. 5 cm width and min. 1.5 m stretched length or elasticated looped bandage, with an oval pad: not less than 7 cm $\times$ 5 cm	2	3	4	1	
Sterile Adhesive Dressings	Water resistant, sterile, an island design, individually wrapped, min. surface area of 7.5 cm2, dressing pad not less than 20% of the area	40	60	100	10	
Saline Cleansing Wipes	Individually wrapped, sterile, min. of 80 mm2	20	30	40	4	
Adhesive Tape	Roll, individually wrapped, min. 2.5 cm width, 5 m length or 3 m long for the travel kit	1	1	1	1	
Nitrile Disposable Gloves	Conforming to BS EN 455-1 and BS EN 455-2, large size (8-9)	6 pairs	9 pairs	12 pairs	1 pair	
Finger Sterile Dressing	Conforming bandage: min. 3.5 cm width and min. 30 cm stretched length, with a dressing pad: min. 3.5 cm2	2	3	4	0	
Resuscitation Face Shield * *	Includes a one-way valve	1	1	2	1	
Foil Blanket	130 cm 210 cm	1	2	3	1	
Eye Wash	Min. effective volume of 250 ml, sterile	0	0	0	1	
Burn Dressing * * *	Water-based gel-soaked dressing, sterile, min. 100 mm2 surface area	1	2	2	1	
Shears	Suitable for cutting clothing, including leather	1	1	1	1	
Conforming Bandage	Min. 7.5 cm width and 4 m stretched length	1	2	2	1	

The quantities in the travel first aid kit are appropriate for one person only.

## NOTE

Attention is drawn to the Health and Safety (First Aid) regulations 1981 Approved Code of Practice and guidance [1] for details on guidance leaflets.



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A shield that can be used to protect a first-aider from infection from a casualty during mouth to mouth resuscitation.

A burn dressing cools the burn injury without any pre-cooling with water or any other medium. The dressing does not dry out within one hour of application.