

# First Aid Buying Guide

## Is Your First Aid Kit Up To Date?

### BS8599-1 COMPLIANT - WORKPLACE KIT

In the past decade, workplace practice has radically changed in many industries. These changes in working behaviour and environments have brought with them new risks and hazards for employees. June 2011 saw the introduction of fresh, updated guidance that now accurately reflects best practice. A new range of kits was introduced and the recommendations came into full force in January of 2012. The new BS8599-1 kits represent a complete overhaul of the 1997 content and it is now incumbent on all businesses to review their first aid kits to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 require you to provide adequate and appropriate first-aid equipment, facilities and people so your employees can be give immediate help if they are injured or taken ill at work.

When is 'adequate and appropriate' will depend on the circumstances in your workplace and you should assess what your first-aid needs are. The minimum first-aid provision on any work site is:

- A suitably stocked first-aid box
- An appointed person to take charge of the first-aid arrangements
- Information for employees about first-aid arrangements

It is important to remember that accidents and illnesses can happen at any time. First-aid provision needs to be available at all times to people that are at work.

The contents of the first aid containers should be examined frequently and restocked after use. Sufficient back up supplies should be held on site.

	CATEGORY OF HAZARD	No. OF EMPLOYEES	SIZE OF FIRST AID KITS
Employers are required to undertake a risk assessment to determine what the hazard levels are and how many employees are involved in the specific area to be covered. Here is a useful guide provided to help you match the assessment to an appropriate kit.	LOW HAZARD E.G. Shops, offices, libraries etc.	< 25 25-100 > 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.	< 5 5-25 > 25	Small Medium Large (1 per 25 employees)