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FIRST AID AT WORK

Employers are responsible for the provision of appropriate first aid equipment and facilities and trained first aiders in respect of their employees. However, the Regulations do not oblige employers to provide first aid for anyone else. Nevertheless, HSE strongly encourages employers to consider others when carrying out their assessment of first aid needs and to make provision for them.

2009 HSE First Aid changes

On the 1st October 2009 new HSE guidance will see the introduction of a new HSE approved 1 day Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) course to replace the current Appointed Persons course

The First Aid at Work course shall be reduced to 3 days.

HSE also strongly advise that annual refresher training (minimum of 3 hours) should be conducted for all trained personal, HACS Training Services offer the first years refresher training FREE for all new 3 day courses.

As a general guide, the table below, compiled using information from the Health & Safety Executive's advice for workplaces, gives an indication of the number of first-aid personnel required.

Risk Category	Number of employees	Suggested *Minimum* Number of First Aid
Lower Risk	Fewer than 25	At Least 1 Appointed Person at all times
	25 – 50	At Least 1 EFAW
	More than 50	At Least 1 First aider (FAW) at least one per 100 employees
Higher Risk	Fewer than 5	At least 1 Appointed Person at all times
	5 – 50	At least 1 First Aider (EFAW or FAW)at least one per 50 employees or part therefore **
	More than 50	At least 1 (FAW) First Aider for every 50 or part thereof

** The type of injuries that might arise in working with those hazards identified, will influence whether the first Aider should be trained in FAW or EFAW.

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Assessment considerations

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Leave and absences
Cover should remain adequate even when first aid personnel are absent on such occasions as annual leave, training days and sickness.

Off-site activities
If first aid personnel are required out of office / off-site, there should be adequate first-aid provision

Different areas and levels of risk
Practical departments, such as workshops, warehouse may be of a higher risk and should be assessed as such.

Out of hour's activities
Adequate provision is needed at all times including all shift times

Provision for any students or trainees working on site
Trainees and Students on work placements have the same status as regular staff for the purposes of health and safety legislation.

Large Buildings / Office complex
Schools need to consider additional first aid provision if there is more than one building. They should also consider how many first-aid personnel are needed to provide adequate cover on each floor of a split-level site.

Specific hazards or risks
Hazardous substances, dangerous tools, machinery and other hazards should be assessed. Temporary hazards, such as building or maintenance work, should also be considered and suitable short-term measures put in place.

Specific needs
Employees with any special health needs or disabilities should be considered.

Accident statistics
Accident statistics are a useful tool in risk assessment. Look at the most common injuries, times, locations and activities to indicate where additional first aid provision may be required.

Location and access
It is good practice to inform the local emergency services of your location, and any particular circumstances that may affect access. Do you have more than one entrance, emergency services should be given clear instructions on where or to whom they should report.

To enquire about these and other courses contact HACS today

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