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Information Sheet 27/09/2011

First-aid Kits

Legislation requires employers to ensure that first-aid kits are readily available in the workplace and of the right composition to meet the needs identified in their own risk assessment.

National standard BS 8599, Workplace First-aid Kits, has been introduced for workplace first-aid kits in the UK. Kits should include increased quantities of products identified as insufficient in previous versions, including plasters and wipes. New additions to kits should include scissors, burns dressings, foil survival blanket, a resuscitation face shield, nitrile gloves, and adhesive tape.

You do not have to replace your existing box with a version compliant with the new standard.

It is not a regulatory requirement to purchase kits that comply with the standard. It is, however, recommended that any replacement first-aid kits should be compliant.

Each employer should assess what is required taking into account such factors as:

- Workplace hazards and risk
- Size of the organisation
- The organisation's history of accidents
- The nature and distribution of the workforce
- The remoteness of the site from medical services
- The needs of travelling and remote lone workers

A full list of the new contents can be found on the British Healthcare Trades Association website at www.bhta.net.

