



**INFORMATION SHEET : NEW STANDARDS FOR WORKPLACE FIRST AID KITS –
BS 8599 : Comes into force 30th June 2011**

BSI, working closely alongside the HSE, have introduced a new British Standard for workplace first aid kits, which comes into force on 30th June 2011 with a transitional period until 31st December 2011.

Previously, most workplace first aid kits available on the market, were in line with the L74 HSE Guidance on what should be in a first aid kit, dependent on the size of the workforce.

The new BS 8599 guidelines have been updated to reflect new training protocols of dealing with injuries and illnesses in the workplace and increased concern over infection control.

The HSE have stated that there are no amendments planned to the First Aid at Work Approved Code of Practice at this particular time, and so it should be noted, that Regulation 3 of the ACOPS still stands which states

“An employer shall provide, or ensure that there are provided, such equipment and facilities as are adequate and appropriate in the circumstances for enabling first aid to be rendered to his employees, if they are injured or become ill at work”

This means, that despite the new BSI first aid kit standards coming into force, employers are still required to complete a First Aid Risk Assessment to determine exactly what is an adequate and appropriate level of equipment and facilities.

Don't just rely on having a BS 8599 kit in place. In your organisation, you may need to have additional equipment and facilities to deal with likely incidents.

What's New in BS8599 Kits

Content	Small	Medium	Large	Travel Kit/Lone Worker
First Aid Guidance leaflet	1	1	1	1
Content list	1	1	1	1
Nitrile Gloves (not Latex) (Pairs)	6	12	24	1
Vent Aid Resuscitation Shield	1	1	2	1
Foil Blanket	1	2	3	1
TUF Cut Clothing Shears	1	1	1	1
Sterile Non Alcoholic Wipes	20	30	40	4

Content	Small	Medium	Large	Travel Kit/Lone Worker
Micropore Tape	1	1	1	1
Safety Pins	6	12	24	2
Burn Relief Dressing	1	2	2	1
Conforming bandage	1	2	2	1
Eye Wash	0	0	0	1
Finger Dressing with Adhesive fixing	2	3	4	0
Triangular Bandage	2	3	4	1
Medium Dressing (12cmx12cm) Sterile	4	6	8	1
Large Dressing (18cmx18cm) Sterile	1	2	2	1
Eye Pad with bandage	2	3	4	1
Washproof plasters	40	60	100	10

Size of First Aid kits required to BS8599

Level of Risk	No of Employees	Size of First Aid Kit
Low Risk Shops, offices, libraries	Less than 25	Small
	25-100	Medium
	100 +	1 Large kit /100 employees
High Risk Manufacturing, assembly, productions, construction, agriculture, warehousing, machinery work, chemical manufacture etc	Less than 5	Small
	5-25	Medium
	25+	1 Large kit/25 employees

This does not affect the need to have other first aid kits in place as well, such as Eye Wash Stations, Burns kits and Chemical Burn kits, where required.

Please note there is a transitional period to comply with the new regulations by 30th December 2011.