

First Aid Kits

Complying with British Standard BS 8599-1:2019

The contents of British Standard compliant kits encompass a wider range of common workplace risks and are therefore more comprehensive than the previous HSE compliant kits. BS 8599-1:2019 sets new minimum content standards which workplace first aid kits should conform to.

What does the law say?

The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 states that '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'.

In recognising the need to ensure that current workplace first aid provision is adequate and appropriate. The British Healthcare Trade Association (BHTA) worked with the British Standards Institute (BSI) to create a British Standard for first aid kits in the workplace known as BS 8599-1:2019. This was updated in 2019 and slightly altered the quantities of certain components within workplace first aid kits, as well as introducing other compliant kits, the Critical Injury Pack and Personal Issue Kit.

What size kit do I need?

The size of the kit required is dependent on a combination of the level of risk and the number of employees in the workplace. You can follow the simple steps below to ensure you have adequate first aid provision.

Step 1

Complete a risk assessment to establish the level of risk in your workplace. You should consider special circumstances such as remoteness to medical services, hazards such as the use of chemicals and machinery and sites with several buildings.

Step 2

Use the table below for guidance on the minimum provision of first aid kits in your workplace. You will need to supplement minimum provision based on the level of risk established in your risk assessment e.g. supplementing with Personal Issue Kits or Critical Injury Packs.

Step 3

Ensure you purchase British Standard compliant BS 8599-1:2019 first aid kits. All the first aid kits displayed in this catalogue meet and/or exceed the standard.

Category Of Hazard

	Number of employees	Number & size of First Aid Kit
Low Hazard e.g. shops, offices, libraries	1-24 ↑	Small 🩹
	25-100 ↑	Medium 🩹
	100+ ↑	1x Large 🩹 per 100 ↑
High Hazard e.g. light engineering and assembly work, food processing, warehousing, extensive work with dangerous machinery or sharp instruments, construction, chemical manufacture, etc	1-4 ↑	Small 🩹
	5-25 ↑	Medium 🩹
	25+ ↑	1x Large 🩹 per 25 ↑

This table is for guidance only and each workplace needs to evaluate its own level of risk.