



BS8599-1 Compliant vs. HSE First Aid Kits

What is the difference in legislation?

Although workplaces have changed in the past decade, the standard guidance on first aid kits under the Health & Safety Executive Regulations (HSE) has remained static since 1981. The HSE provides some guidance on the type of items that should be in a first aid kit, but not the quantities. With no changes in regulation since 1981, it was evident that a new standard needed to be implemented.

BS8599-1 compliant kits have been improved to meet current hazards and risks. They take into account development of innovative modern products and updated first aid practices. The BS8599-1 compliant kits provide a simple method for employers to choose a kit that matches their risk assessment and demonstrate compliance with the law.

BHTA 10, 20, and 50 person standard (HSE) kits are now widely considered obsolete.

	REF 112 HSE 10 PERSON	REF 330 BS8599 SMALL	REF 113 HSE 20 PERSON	REF 343 BS8599 MEDIUM	REF 114 HSE 50 PERSON	REF 348 BS8599 LARGE
Burn Dressings	-	1	-	2	-	2
Cleansing Wipes	6	20	10	30	20	40
Conforming Bandages	-	1	-	2	-	2
Eye Pad Dressings	2	2	4	3	6	4
Finger Dressings	-	2	-	3	-	4
Foil Blankets	-	1	-	2	-	3
Gloves (Pairs)	1	6	2	9	3	12
Guidance Leaflet	1	1	1	1	1	1
Large HSE Dressings	2	1	3	2	4	2
Medium HSE Dressings	6	4	9	6	12	8
Microporous Tape	-	1	-	1	-	1
Plasters (Assorted)	20	40	40	60	60	100
Resuscitation Shield	-	1	-	1	-	2
Safety Pins	6	6	12	12	12	24
Triangular Bandage	4	2	6	3	8	4
Universal Shears	-	1	-	1	-	1

What's the difference between the contents?

ADHESIVE TAPE

BS8599-1 compliant kits include adhesive tape, to give First Aiders the choice between tape or safety pins to secure bandages.

BURN DRESSINGS

As most workplaces include a risk of burns, BS8599-1 compliant kits include a burn dressing, together with a conforming bandage to attach and hold the dressing in place.

CLEANSING WIPES

BS8599-1 standards require cleaning wipes to be saline wipes only, allowing for use on an open wound. HSE standard non-alcohol wipes can only be used to cleanse unbroken skin.

FOIL BLANKETS

Clinical shock presents one of the most life-threatening risks to a casualty. The introduction of heat-reflecting foil blankets combat clinical shock and can be used to keep casualties warm.

FINGER DRESSINGS

Finger dressings have been introduced for finger injuries that are too large for plasters.

GLOVES

The BS8599-1 standards require disposable gloves to be nitrile. These are latex-free, and superior in terms of protection, comfort, and sensitivity. They also conform to BS EN 455-1 and BS EN 455-2 standards.

RESUSCITATION SHIELD

BS8599-1 compliant kits have introduced a resuscitation shield which includes a one-way valve, protecting the first aider from infection.



The HSE states:

“Employers may wish to refer to British Standard BS8599 which provides further information on the contents of workplace first aid kits.”

SHEARS

Shears have been introduced to BS8599-1 compliant kits, allowing clothing to be cut away for more effective first aid treatment.

TRIANGULAR BANDAGES

Quantities of triangular bandages have been reduced to reflect changes in training protocol, as they are no longer used for immobilisation of lower limbs.

WASHPROOF PLASTERS

In BS8599-1 compliant first aid kits, the quantities of plasters have been increased to reflect consumer demand.