



FIRST AID LAW

The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 require employers to provide adequate and appropriate equipment, facilities and personnel to enable first aid to be given to employees if they are injured or become ill at work. These Regulations apply to all workplaces including those with five or fewer employees and to the self-employed. Detailed information can be found in the Approved Code of Practice and Guidance: First aid at work. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg214.pdf> page 1.

What is adequate will depend on the circumstances in the workplace. This includes whether fully qualified first aiders are needed, what should be included in a first aid box and if a first aid room is needed. Employers should carry out an assessment of first aid needs to determine this. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg214.pdf> page 4.

The Regulations do not place a legal obligation on employers to make first aid provision for non-employees such as the public or children in schools. However, HSE strongly recommends that non-employees are included in a first aid needs assessment and that provision is made for them. An update on this topic is available on the HSE <http://www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/review/dec05.htm>

By law all employers are required to carry out an assessment of first aid needs. This involves consideration of workplace hazards and risks, the size of the organisation and other relevant factors, to determine what first aid equipment, facilities and trained personnel should be provided.

PRS can help you decide the level of cover you may require and put an effective training plan into operation, even across the UK if your company has multiple satellites. Simply contact us today and start the process immediately.