



What does the law say?

The Health and Safety (First Aid) regulations 1981 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”



BS8599-1:2019

1. Guidance for employers on first aid kits in a workplace environment.

The quantities and sizes of first aid kits to be used in a workplace environment should be determined by the number of people on site and the category of hazard they are exposed to. The following table categorises workplaces by level of risk, and then recommends an appropriate size of kit, depending on the number of employees and members of the public exposed to those risks.



1. DO A RISK ASSESSMENT.

LOW RISK: (e.g. shops, offices, libraries etc.)

HIGH RISK: (e.g. light engineering and assembly work, food processing, warehousing, etc.)

2. DECIDE ON THE SIZE AND QUANTITY OF KITS REQUIRED TO MEET YOUR RISK NEEDS ASSESSMENT.

SMALL KIT USAGE GUIDELINES	LOW RISK:	1 kit for less than 25 employees
	HIGH RISK:	1 kit for less than 5 employees
MEDIUM KIT USAGE GUIDELINES	LOW RISK:	1 kit per 25-100 employees
	HIGH RISK:	1 kit per 5-25 employees
LARGE KIT USAGE GUIDELINES	LOW RISK:	1 kit per 100 employees
	HIGH RISK:	1 kit per 25 employees

TRAVEL AND MOTORING * 1 Medium Kit

* Staff working remotely from a company vehicle should be equipped with a travel and motoring first aid kit. This does not supersede BS8599-2 for vehicle first aid kits, employers should refer to BS8599-2 when equipping vehicles with first aid kits.

2. Guidance for employers on provision of supplementary first aid kits.

The following table provides recommendations for employers on quantities of supplementary first aid kits for the workplace as an extra resource British Standard Compliant Small, Medium, Large and Travel & Motoring First Aid Kits.

Type of Kit or Pack	Quantity and size of first aid kit
PERSONAL ISSUE FIRST AID KIT ** e.g. security personnel, cleaners, maintenance, etc.	1 kit should be issued to individual first aiders and other employees where appropriate to their role.
CRITICAL INJURY PACK *** e.g. work with dangerous machinery or sharp instruments, cutting equipment, power tools, construction, agriculture, forestry, etc.	Appropriate numbers of this pack should be stored, in line with the risks assessed. Employers should take into consideration the maximum number of people on site at any one time.

** Employers might consider equipping first aiders in their workplace with a personal issue first aid kit.

*** In addition, following a risk assessment, an employer might consider storing appropriate quantities of critical injury packs to be equipped to deal with injuries to employees or the public resulting from acts of terrorism or other mass casualty incidents.

What is included in the Reliance Medical BS8599-1:2019 Compliant First Aid Kits?

	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	TRAVEL AND MOTORING ¹	PERSONAL ISSUE ¹	CRITICAL INJURY
Bandage, Conforming	1	2	2	0	0	0
Bandage, Triangular	2	3	4	1	1	0
Dressing Pad, Adhesive	0	0	0	1	0	0
Dressing, Burn ³	1	2	2	2	0	0
Dressing, Eye Pad	2	3	4	0	0	0
Dressing, Finger	2	3	4	0	0	0
Dressing, Haemostatic ⁴	0	0	0	0	0	2
Dressing, Sterile, Large	2	3	4	0	1	0
Dressing, Sterile, Medium	2	4	6	1	0	0
Dressing, Trauma, Large	0	0	0	0	0	2
Dressing, Trauma, Medium	0	0	0	1	0	0
Foil Blanket	1	2	3	1	1	1
Gloves, Nitrile (Pairs)	6	9	12	2	2	2
Guidance Leaflet	1	1	1	1	1	1
Plasters, Washproof Assorted	40	60	100	10	10	0
Resuscitation Face Shield ²	1	1	2	1	1	0
Shears	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tape, Microporous	1	2	3	0	0	0
Tourniquet	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wipes	20	30	40	10	4	0

1 The quantities in the travel and motoring first aid kit and personal issue first aid kit are appropriate for one person only.

2 The shield is used to protect a first-aider from infection from a casualty during mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

3 A Burn Dressing cools the burn injury without any prior treatment with water or any other medium. The dressing does not dry out within one hour of application.

4 A haemostatic dressing is more effective than packing with plain gauze and pressure.

