

## BS 8599 British Standard Compliant First Aid Kits

These BSI enhanced first aid kits are based on the HSE first aid kits but with added extras. There are more pairs of gloves, small dressings and plasters. Other useful items such as eyewash, burn dressings, foil blankets, face shields and clothing cutters have been added.

Table 1 - Contents of a BS-8599-1 compliant workplace first aid kit					
Component	Description	Quantity			
		Small	Medium	Large	Travel*
Guidance Leaflet	Provides brief first aid guidelines	1	1	1	1
Contents List	Provides a list of first aid kit components included in kit	1	1	1	1
Medium Sterile Dressing	Conforming bandage: min. 7.5 cm width and min. 2 m stretched length, with an absorbent pad: not less than 12 cm x 12 cm	4	6	8	1
Large Sterile Dressing	Conforming bandage: min. 10 cm width and min. 2 m stretched length, with an absorbent pad: not less than 18 cm x 18 cm	1	2	2	1
Triangular Bandage	Min. of 20 gsm non-woven material or cotton, not less than 90 cm x 90 cm x 127 cm	2	3	4	1
Safety Pins	Min. length of 2.5 cm	6	12	24	2
Eye Pad Sterile Dressing	Conforming bandage: min. 5 cm width and min. 1.5 m stretched length or elasticated looped bandage, with an oval pad: not less than 7 cm x 5 cm	2	3	4	1
Sterile Adhesive Dressings	Water resistant, sterile, an island design, individually wrapped, min. surface area of 7.5 cm <sup>2</sup> , dressing pad not less than 20% of the area	40	60	100	10
Saline Cleansing Wipes	Individually wrapped, sterile, min. of 80 mm <sup>2</sup>	20	30	40	4
Adhesive Tape	Roll, individually wrapped, min. 2.5 cm width, 5 m length or 3 m long for the travel kit	1	1	1	1
Nitrile Disposable Gloves	Conforming to BS EN 455-1 and BS EN 455-2, large size (8-9)	6 pairs	9 pairs	12 pairs	1 pair
Finger Sterile Dressing	Conforming bandage: min. 3.5 cm width and min. 30 cm stretched length, with a dressing pad: min. 3.5 cm <sup>2</sup>	2	3	4	0
Resuscitation Face Shield**	Includes a one-way valve	1	1	2	1
Foil Blanket	130 cm x 210 cm	1	2	3	1
Eye Wash	Min. effective volume of 250 ml, sterile	0	0	0	1
Burn Dressing***	Water-based gel-soaked dressing, sterile, min. 100 mm <sup>2</sup> surface area	1	2	2	1
Shears	Suitable for cutting clothing, including leather	1	1	1	1
Conforming Bandage	Min. 7.5 cm width and 4 m stretched length	1	2	2	1
* The quantities in the travel first aid kit are appropriate for one person only.					
** A shield that can be used to protect a first-aiders from infection from a casualty during mouth to mouth resuscitation.					
*** A burn dressing cools the burn injury without any pre-cooling with water or any other medium. The dressing does not dry out within one hour of application.					
<b>NOTE</b> Attention is drawn to the Health and Safety (First Aid) regulations 1981 Approved Code of Practice and guidance [1] for details on guidance leaflets.					

Table 2 - Guidance of first aid kit sizes for a workplace environment		
Category of risk	Number of employees	Number and size of first aid kit
<b>Low risk</b> <i>e.g. shops, offices, libraries</i>	Fewer than 25	1 Small Kit
	25-50	1 Medium Kit
	More than 50	1 Large Kit per 100 Employees
<b>High risk</b> <i>e.g. most construction, slaughterhouse, working with chemicals</i>	Fewer than 5	1 Small Kit
	5-25	1 Medium Kit
	More than 25	1 Large Kit per 25 Employees

**NEW Standards** Have been issued for the provision of First Aid within the workplace - BS 8599-1:2011

Over the last 14 years the first aid industry has complied with the guidelines as set out in the Health & Safety (First Aid) Regulations Approved Code of Practice 1997. This document outlined a range of advice to employers for the provision of first aid within the workplace.

Over the past decade the requirement of the contents of a first aid kit has evolved and this has been recognised by the British Healthcare Trade Association who has worked, analysed and developed a solution that is fit for purpose in today's workplace environment.

The contents of these kits is more comprehensive than the HSE 10 20 and 50 person kits. The HSE kits **remain valid** and are ideal as a basic kit great for adding contents that are specifically needed in your particular work environment.

### Which Kit do I require?

Similar to the HSE kits the content of the new BS-8599-1 Compliant Workplace First Aid Kits are appropriate for use based on a combination of the risk of the workplace and the number of employees and visitors.

The table above can be used as a guide to ascertain which compliant kit you require for your workplace - *please note that it is the duty of the employer to make an assessment of the first aid needs appropriate to the circumstances of your workplace and the below acts as a guide only.*

Where there are special circumstances, such as remoteness from emergency medical services, shiftwork or sites with several separate buildings, there might need to be more first aid kits than set out in Table 2.

Also available – Catering and travel kits

