

First aid at work newsletter

Issue 3 January 2008

Introduction

This issue of the first aid at work (FAW) newsletter for FAW training providers gives you an update on:

- the review of the FAW Regulations;
- the selection of a contractor to support HSE's approval and monitoring activities from April 2008; and
- the fees for approval and monitoring activities in 2008/09.

HSE's external contractor from April 2008

In line with Government Procurement protocols, HSE has recently carried out a tender competition to secure services to support its first aid at work approval and monitoring activities. From the 17 businesses that initially expressed an interest in tendering, HSE was able to identify four businesses as clear front-runners and these were formally invited to tender. Three tenders were received. After careful consideration of their technical ability and cost in providing the services, HSE has awarded the contract to SCOUT Enterprises (Western) Ltd, in what was an extremely close competition.



Review of the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981

HSE has published statements containing proposals for approval and monitoring arrangements to support introduction of the new first aid training courses. They were produced with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and Scottish Qualifications Authority and are available on HSE's website at:

www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/review/nov07.htm

www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/review/dec07.htm

The proposals have been included in draft guidance documents for employers and first aid training providers. HSE is currently consulting on this guidance with groups representing relevant stakeholders – employers, employees, first aiders and first aid training providers. This consultation is focused on how the new first aid courses will be implemented rather than the structure and content of the new courses which have already been subject to consultation. Once this exercise is completed in February, HSE will evaluate all comments received before deciding how to inform stakeholders of the outcome.

Fees

As noted in the previous newsletter, HSE recommended to the Health and Safety Commission that the fees for 2007/08 should be increased by 12% for 2008/09, in line with the previous year's increase. The Commission has agreed to recommend these fees to the Minister. If subsequently agreed, from April 2008, the new charges will be as follows:

New approval	£ 1350
Post-approval monitoring visit	£ 535
Renewal of Certificate of Approval	£ 95

A decision was taken not to charge for amending a Certificate of Approval - for example where your company name has changed. **It is important to inform FAAMS of any relevant changes to your contact details.**



And finally. . .

Please note that you are no longer required to submit the course notification form MS79 (see www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/review/dec06.htm). However, you should still record the FAW courses you run, as part of your administrative system.

For queries on general aspects of FAW, contact HSE's Infoline
(Tel: 0845 345 0055 e-mail: hse.infoline@natbrit.com)

For queries about your own approval or the approval process, contact the FAAMS team
(Tel: 0151 951 3919 e-mail: faams@hse.gsi.gov.uk)