

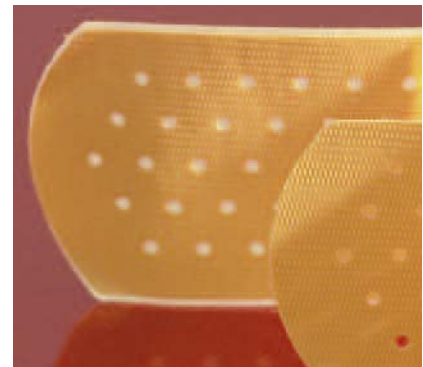
First aid at work newsletter

Issue 7 July 2009

Introduction

Issue 7 updates first aid at work (FAW) training providers on:

- changes to first-aid training;
- contact details;
- FAW requalification and certification;
- use of 'casualties' during the final practical assessment.



Changes to first-aid training

Revised guidance for first-aid training organisations, incorporating the changes to first-aid training, is now available on HSE's website (www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/training-guidance.htm). Full implementation of the changes will start from 1 October 2009.

Revised guidance for employer dutyholders will be available from this date. Responses to some common questions about the changes can be found at:
www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/review/trainingfaq.htm.

The changes will mean updating the Schedules to your Certificate of Approval outlining the conditions of your approval. The updated Schedules will be published on HSE's website - you should download them and keep a copy with your current Certificate. The revised Schedules will take effect from 1 October 2009. From this date, when you apply for a Certificate renewal, you will be issued with the revised version.

Provision of offshore first aid and offshore medic courses will not be affected by the changes to training.

Contact details

HSE has now published a list of approved first aid at work training organisations on its website (webcommunities.hse.gov.uk/inovem/inovem.ti/firstaid/view?objectId=15603). The list will allow employers to check your approval status. Please check your organisation's contact details and inform FAAMS of any changes to your details, so employers are given accurate information.

FAW requalification and certification

Employers need to arrange retraining before FAW certificates expire. Where first-aiders retrain during the three months before the certificate expires, the new certificate should take effect from the expiry date and last for three years from this date. Where retraining is earlier than this three-month period, the new certificate should take effect from the date the course is completed and last for three years from this date.

Where first-aiders do not complete their retraining before the expiry date, they should complete it no more than 28 days beyond the expiry date. The new certificate should be dated from the expiry date of the previous certificate and last for three years from this date. The 28-day certificate extension can be applied irrespective of the circumstances which led the first-aider to go beyond their certificate expiry date before requalifying. If a first-aider cannot complete the training by the end of this 28-day period they will not be allowed onto an FAW requalification course and will have to undertake the full FAW course to obtain a new certificate.

Where FAW trainers need a new FAW certificate, it is not acceptable for them just to take the final practical assessment. They should attend an FAW requalification course delivered by another trainer and successfully complete the final assessment.

Use of 'casualties' during the final practical assessment

HSE has received a number of queries about this topic. Students should not be used as casualties during the final assessment of an FAW or FAW requalification course. However, they can be used as casualties in the course itself during practical demonstrations, where appropriate. Ideally, anyone used as a casualty during the final assessment should not have been involved in the training.



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)