

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY (FIRST-AID) REGULATIONS 1981 (GB) AND THE HEALTH AND SAFETY (FIRST-AID) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1982

1. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to describe the arrangement between the Health and Safety Executive in Great Britain (HSE(GB)) and the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSE(NI)). The arrangement confirms the mutual recognition by both of first-aid at work and emergency first aid at work certificates issued by organisations approved for the issuing of such certificates from either the HSE(GB) pursuant to the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 or the HSE(NI) pursuant to the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1982.
2. Both sets of first-aid regulations describe the requirement placed upon employers to have suitable first-aiders (first-aiders) in the workplace who have undergone training approved by their respective Health and Safety Executives and who have received a certificate confirming this. In strict legal terms this has the effect of preventing an individual trained by an HSE(GB) approved organisation, and who is therefore a first-aider in Great Britain, from acting as a first-aider in a Northern Ireland workplace, and vice versa. This Memorandum of Understanding enables first-aiders from one or other jurisdiction to practise as first-aiders in either jurisdiction.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding is made on the basis that arrangements to ensure the proper and comprehensive training of first-aiders at work in Great Britain and Northern Ireland are similar across both jurisdictions. Specifically, the syllabi, course duration, required competencies of trainers and assessors and certification requirements are the same. Any differences relate to administrative aspects and their oversight. Overall, the similarity of these systems permits this Memorandum of Understanding to be given effect.
4. From the 1st of December 2011 individuals approaching either HSE(GB) or HSE(NI) and who are in possession of a first-aid at work or emergency first aid at work certificate awarded by an organisation approved by either HSE(GB) or HSE(NI) will be considered able to act as first-aiders within the workplace in either jurisdiction. The first aid approval and monitoring services of HSE (GB) and HSE (NI) maintain up to date records of training providers which they currently approve. This enables those approval and monitoring services to verify that an individual's first-aid at work or emergency first aid at work certificate was issued by an approved training provider.

5. This Memorandum of Understanding will be the subject of review every three years.

SIGNED BY



Peter Brown

Head of Division

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For the Health and Safety Executive



9/11/11

Bryan Monson

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