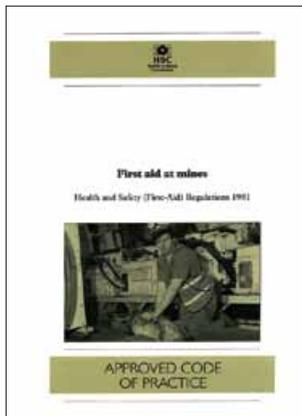


# First aid at mines

Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981

Approved Code of Practice



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This Approved Code of Practice gives practical advice on the requirements placed on employers and self-employed people by the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 to provide adequate first aid provisions to all mine workers.

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This Code has been approved by the Health and Safety Executive, with the consent of the Secretary of State. It gives practical advice on how to comply with the law. If you follow the advice you will be doing enough to comply with the law in respect of those specific matters on which the Code gives advice. You may use alternative methods to those set out in the Code in order to comply with the law.

However, the Code has a special legal status. If you are prosecuted for breach of health and safety law, and it is proved that you did not follow the relevant provisions of the Code, you will need to show that you have complied with the law in some other way or a Court will find you at fault.

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# Notice of Approval

By virtue of section 16(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and with the consent of the Secretary of State for Employment the Health and Safety Commission has on 3 August 1993 approved the Code of Practice entitled *First aid at mines*.

The Code of Practice gives practical guidance with respect to the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 (SI 1981 No 917), and its application to mines. The Code of Practice comes into effect on 1 October 1993.

Signed

T A GATES  
Secretary to the Health and Safety Commission

3 August 1993

**The Health and Safety Commission (HSC) merged in 1 April 2008 to form a single national regulatory body. From that date, the Health and Safety Executive became responsible for approving Codes of Practice, with the consent of the Secretary of State.**

## Introduction

1 The Code of Practice has been approved by the Health and Safety Commission with the consent of the Secretary of State under section 16 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. It gives practical guidance on the requirements placed on employers and self-employed persons by the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 as they now apply to mines and comes into effect on 1 October 1993 which is the date on which the Management and Administration of Safety and Health at Mines Regulations 1993 come into force.

2 Regulation 44 of the Management and Administration of Safety and Health at Mines Regulations 1993 applies the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 to mines and mining operations by revoking regulation 7(e) of the 1981 Regulations. It also substitutes a new regulation 8 in the 1981 Regulations. This confers the duties arising from regulations 3(1) and (2) and regulation 4 on the mine owner and treats everybody employed at the mine for the time being as employees of the owner. It also disapplies regulations 3(3) and (4) to mines. Further guidance is given in paragraph 30. It should be noted that one of the effects of the new regulation 8 is that in the case of miscellaneous mines the duties arising from regulations 3 and 4 are transferred from the manager of the mine to the owner.

3 Although failure to comply with any provision of this Approved Code is not in itself an offence, that failure may be used in criminal proceedings as evidence that a person has contravened a regulation to which the provision relates. In such a case however it will be open to that person to satisfy the court that he has complied with the regulation in some other way.

4 Where a full-time occupational health service which is in the charge of a registered medical practitioner or qualified occupational health nurse is provided by an employer, the first-aid arrangements for the establishment should be made by the registered medical practitioner or qualified occupational health nurse in charge. These arrangements may differ from those set out in the Approved Code of Practice provided that they are of at least equivalent standard. The occupational health service need not be staffed continuously by a full-time registered medical practitioner or qualified occupational health nurse, provided that arrangements are made by him/her for suitable coverage for all employees during working hours. Where first-aid arrangements are NOT made by the registered medical practitioner or qualified occupational health nurse, the arrangements should comply with the Approved Code of Practice.

## Citation and commencement

### Regulation

1

### Regulation 1

*These Regulations may be cited as the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 and shall come into operation on 1st July 1982.*

### ACOP 1

**5 This Code of Practice applies to employers, employees, and self employed persons working at mines within Great Britain.**

## Interpretation

### Regulation

2

### Regulation 2

*–(1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires – “first-aid” means –*

- (a) in cases where a person will need help from a medical practitioner or nurse, treatment for the purpose of preserving life and minimising the consequences of injury and illness until such help is obtained; and*
- (b) treatment of minor injuries which would otherwise receive no treatment or which do not need treatment by a medical practitioner or nurse;*

*“mine” means a mine without the meaning of section 180 of the Mines, and Quarries Act 1954<sup>(a)</sup>.*

*(2) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, any reference to -*

- (a) a numbered Regulation or Schedule is a reference to the Regulation of, or Schedule to, these Regulations bearing that number;*
- (b) a numbered paragraph is a reference to the paragraph bearing that number in the Regulation in which the reference appears.*

(a) 1954 c.70; relevant amending instrument is S.I. 1974/2013

ACOP

6 In this Approved Code of Practice, unless the context requires otherwise,

“approved” means approved by the Health and Safety Executive for the time being;

“employer” means the owner of any mine to which the regulations apply (see regulation 8 of the Regulations);

“first-aid” has the same meaning as in regulation 2 of the Regulations;

“registered medical practitioner” means a medical practitioner registered under the Medical Act 1983;

“owner” has the same meaning as in regulation 2(1) of the Management and Administration of Safety and Health at Mines Regulations 1993;

“qualified occupational health nurse” means a nurse whose name is entered in Part 1 of the single professional register maintained by the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing Midwifery and Health Visiting, and who holds the Occupational Health Nursing Certificate of the Royal College of Nursing, or the Birmingham Accident Hospital.

Certificate gained between 1941 and 1973, or other equivalent certificate of training in occupational health nursing;

“the regulations” means the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 as amended by the Management and Administration of Safety and Health at Mines Regulations 1993;

and other words and expressions used which are also used in the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 have the same meaning as in that Act.

# Duty of employer to make provision for first-aid

## Regulation

### Regulation 3

*-(1) 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.*

*(2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), an employer shall provide, or ensure that there is provided, such number of suitable persons as is adequate and appropriate in the circumstances for rendering first-aid to his employees if they are injured or become ill at work; and for this purpose a person shall not be suitable unless he has undergone –*

- (a) such training and has such qualifications as the Health and Safety Executive may approve for the time being in respect of that case or class of case, and*
- (b) such additional training, if any, as may be appropriate in the circumstances of that case.*

*(3) Where a person provided under paragraph (2) is absent in temporary and exceptional circumstances it shall be sufficient compliance with that paragraph if the employer appoints a person, or ensures that a person is appointed, to take charge of –*

- (a) the situation relating to an injured or ill employee who will need help from a medical practitioner or nurse, and*
- (b) the equipment and facilities provided under paragraph (1) throughout the period of any such absence.*

*(4) Where having regard to –*

- (a) the nature of the undertaking, and*
- (b) the number of employees at work, and*
- (c) the location of the establishment,*

*it would be adequate and appropriate if instead of a person for rendering first-aid there was a person appointed to take charge as in paragraph (3)(a) and (b), then instead of complying with paragraph (2) the employer may appoint such a person, or ensure that such a person is appointed.*

3

ACOP

7 The duty of the employer to make provision for first aid is stated in Regulation 3. It should be noted that regulations 3(3) and (4) do not apply to mines (see the introduction to this code of practice and regulation 8). For mines, therefore, regulation 3 (2) is not in effect, subject to regulations 3(3) and (4). Provision of equipment and facilities and suitable persons for rendering first-aid must be 'adequate and appropriate in the circumstances'. Persons suitable for rendering first aid must have undergone training and have such qualifications as the Health and Safety Executive may approve; the Executive will continue their recognition of the existing approved qualifications for the time being. In certain cases it may be appropriate for a person to undergo additional first-aid training. Persons appointed to render first aid underground should be provided with portable first-aid boxes.

8 Where employees of more than one employer, or self-employed persons, work at the mine the duty to provide equipment and facilities for everyone working at the mine should be met by the owner (see regulation 8 and associated code). It will also be for the owner to ensure that there are sufficient first-aiders available at the mine at all times.

### First-aid room

#### *Mines where 25 or more persons work at any one time*

9 The owner of every mine at which at any one time there may be 25 or more persons at work should provide on the mine surface:

- (a) a first-aid room which should:
  - (i) be near to, and easily accessible from, a shaft or outlet normally used by persons employed below ground at the mine. Ambulances should be able to approach it without difficulty, and it should not communicate with any sanitary conveniences except through a ventilated space;
  - (ii) have a floor area of not less than 14 square metres;
  - (iii) have interior surfaces which may easily be kept in a clean and dust free condition;
  - (iv) be fitted with a glazed, stainless steel or other suitable sink with suitable drainage;
  - (v) have a telephone connected to the telephone system of the mine;
  - (vi) be easily identifiable from the outside by the prominent display of the words 'First Aid' or 'Medical Care'; and
  - (vii) the doors should be wide enough to accommodate a stretcher, wheelchair or carrying chair; and
- (b) waiting accommodation which should:
  - (i) be conveniently accessible to the first-aid room;
  - (ii) be indoors; and
  - (iii) have seats; and
- (c) sanitary conveniences which should be near the first-aid room, unless there is easy access to constantly available sanitary conveniences.

ACOP

10 The first-aid room should be used exclusively for medical treatment or examination. It, together with the waiting area and sanitary accommodation, should be adequately lit, heated and ventilated. Hot and cold running water should be readily available in the sanitary accommodation and the first-aid room. The first-aid room and any rooms associated with it should at all times be kept clean and properly maintained.

11 The owner should appoint a suitable person to be responsible for the room and its contents. That person, or a duly appointed and suitably qualified substitute, should be immediately available on the surface of the mine at all times when any person is working at the mine. The first-aid room should be manned when the main body of workpeople is entering or leaving the mine. However, there may be some circumstances where it is sufficient that at least one person is immediately available to carry out first aid.

A “suitable person” should be:

(a) a first-aider who is, as a minimum:

a person who has been trained by and holds a current first-aid certificate issued by an organisation or employer whose training and qualifications for first-aiders were, at the time of the issue of the certificate, approved by the Health and Safety Executive for the purposes of these Regulations in relation to mines. In certain circumstances a first-aider will need additional or specific training to be a suitable person; or

(b) any other person who has undergone training and obtained qualifications approved by the Health and Safety Executive for the purposes of the regulations.

12 Every first-aid room should be equipped with:

- (a) suitable equipment for carrying persons such as carrying sheets, facilities for its support at carrying level when loaded, and blankets;
- (b) a couch;
- (c) suitable seating;
- (d) equipment suitable for the immobilisation of any injured limb and appropriate bandages (including triangular bandages) and padding;
- (e) an adequate supply of potable water;
- (f) an adequate number of suitable dressings including cotton wool and sterile adhesive dressings;
- (g) sterilized eye pads in separate sealed packets;
- (h) scissors and safety pins;
- (i) soap, disposable towels and a nail brush;
- (j) suitable disposable protective clothing for use by persons rendering first aid including clinical waterproof protective gloves;
- (k) suitable facilities for the disposal of clinical and biological waste;
- (l) a suitable container for the disposal of sharp instruments such as needles or syringes;
- (m) oral resuscitation aids to minimise risk of infection;
- (n) sandbags; and
- (o) any other equipment identified as being necessary.

ACOP

The equipment should be examined so that any defects are remedied and any missing items replaced. Suitable arrangements should be made for the safe disposal of the clinical waste and sharp instruments referred to in (k) and (l) above. Normally such arrangement should be made through the local authority waste disposal system. Such waste should not be buried or burnt on mine premises.

*Mines where no more than 24 are at work at any one time*

13 Where no more than 24 persons are likely to be at work at the mine at any one time, the owner should ensure that there is constantly available on the surface, or nearby, a room where first aid may be given to persons who, while employed at the mine, are injured or become ill. The room should:

- (a) be provided with adequate means for its heating and lighting;
- (b) have interior surfaces which may easily be kept in a clean and dust free condition; and
- (c) have readily available hot and cold water and potable water.

14 The owner of every such mine should make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to keep the room clean and properly maintained, and ventilated by clean and fresh air.

15 In every such room, or in some other suitable place, there should be provided:

- (a) suitable equipment for carrying persons such as carrying sheets, facilities for its support at carrying level when loaded, and blankets;
- (b) a couch;
- (c) suitable seating;
- (d) equipment suitable for the immobilisation of any injured limb and appropriate bandages (including triangular bandages) and padding.
- (e) soap, disposable towels and a nail brush;
- (f) suitable disposable protective clothing for use by persons rendering first aid including clinical waterproof protective gloves;
- (g) a first-aid box clearly marked 'First Aid' and containing only first-aid materials including the materials specified in paragraph 16 and one copy of a first-aid leaflet approved for the purpose;
- (h) arrangements should be made for making available other necessary equipment when persons are at work at the mine;
- (i) suitable facilities for disposal of clinical and biological waste;
- (j) a suitable container for the disposal of sharp instruments such as needles or syringes; and
- (k) sandbags.

As with large mines suitable arrangements should be made for the disposal of medical waste (see paragraph 12 above).

16. The first-aid box should contain:

- (a) a supply of suitable dressings including triangular bandages and cotton wool;
- (b) a sufficient quantity of sterile eye-irrigative fluid, eg normal saline or sterile coated; and
- (c) scissor and safety pins.

ACOP

The equipment should be examined so that any defects could be remedied and so that any missing items replaced. Items used should be replaced immediately.

17 The owner should appoint suitable persons, as described at paragraph 11 above, to be in charge of the room and the equipment. One such person should be readily available at all times when any person is working at the mine so that suitable and timely treatment can be given to sick or injured persons.

*Underground organisation at all mines*

18 At all mines the owner should appoint a sufficient number of persons to render first aid to ensure that:

- (a) the ratio of persons working in the mine to first-aiders in attendance on each shift should not be greater than 25:1; and
- (b) there should be present on each shift in each inbye district, at least one appointed first-aider. Where more than 25 persons may be at work in such a place additional first-aiders should be appointed so that the ratio of persons working in that place to first-aiders does not exceed 25:1.

In complying with (a) and (b) above the owner should take into account the need to ensure adequate first-aid provision for all persons at work at the mine.

19 The owner should provide portable first-aid boxes for each person appointed to be a first-aider below ground and should replenish them as necessary. The box should be marked to make it easily identifiable and contain not less than:

- (a) two large plain wound dressings;
- (b) two small plain wound dressings;
- (c) six adhesive wound dressings of an approved type and of assorted sizes;
- (d) two triangular bandages;
- (e) four finger dressings;
- (f) clinical waterproof protective gloves; and
- (g) one oral resuscitation protection aid.

First-aiders should look after their first-aid boxes, check the contents each shift and carry them with them.

20 No first-aider should be appointed or continue as a first-aider unless he/she holds a current first-aid certificate. Those appointed to provide first aid below ground should have had sufficient training in the mine environment for the particular dangers to safety and health which exist in the mines to which they have been appointed so that they do not cause danger either to themselves or to others. (See also paragraph 164 of the Approved Code of Practice on the Management and Administration of Safety and Health at Mines).

21 The owner should make a scheme for the siting of adequate first-aid stations for equipment in all appropriate parts of the mine. These should include each inbye district, all roads along which persons regularly travel or in which they work (unless the time spent by persons in the road is very short) and at the pit bottom. A copy of the scheme should be posted in the covered accommodation provided at the surface of the mine.

ACOP

22 The following equipment should be provided at the stations described in paragraph 21:

- (a) suitable equipment for carrying persons such as carrying sheets and blankets adequately protected against contamination;
- (b) equipment suitable for the immobilisation of any injured limb including triangular bandages;
- (c) a suitable container, marked with the words 'First Aid' in accordance with the Safety Signs Regulations 1980 and containing not less than:
  - (i) six large plain wound dressings;
  - (ii) six small wound dressings;
  - (iii) six finger dressings;
  - (iv) two extensive burns dressings;
  - (v) one large roll of cotton wool;
  - (vi) sterile eye wash;
  - (vii) six pairs of clinical waterproof gloves;
  - (viii) one oral resuscitation protection aid;
  - (ix) two small clean sandbags.

The equipment should be maintained in good order and ready for immediate use. It should be regularly inspected and physically examined, preferably weekly. Any defects discovered at these inspections should be remedied at once, and any missing equipment reported to the command supervisor and replaced. Items used should be replaced immediately.

23 The owner should ensure that the positions of first-aid equipment stations are clearly and prominently signposted in the mine. The positions should also be indicated on plans of the mine, especially on the plan provided for use in emergencies

24 The owner should ensure that there is a suitable means of transporting sick or injured persons out of the mine. In deciding what is suitable, account should be taken of such factors as shafts, gradients and walking surfaces. Equipment which would be provided may include, for example, wheeled carriages adapted for underground conditions and suitable for transporting sick or injured persons either to the bottom of the shaft where they can be raised to the surface or through a walkable outlet. It may also include the provision of suitable equipment to allow sick or injured persons to be transported to the shaft bottom via man-riding conveyors. All shafts (including those in the course of being sunk) and unwalkable outlets should be provided with a suitable appliance for transporting sick or injured persons safely to the surface.

25 While any person is working at the mine there should always be available a competent person whose duty it is to summon the ambulance service should it be needed, and any other service necessary. If the public ambulance service is not adequate to the needs of the mine the owner should make suitable alternative provision.

## Duty of employer to inform his employees of the arrangements made in connection with first-aid

### Regulation

4

### Regulation 4

*An employer shall inform his employees of the arrangements that have been made in connection with the provision of first-aid, including the location of equipment, facilities and personnel.*

### ACOP

4

**26** The owner should ensure that new employees, when they are first employed at the mine, are told of the location of first-aid equipment and personnel and, where appropriate, facilities. This should be part of any induction training given to new employees. If employees are subsequently required to use different equipment and facilities or to go to different personnel for assistance, for example because they move to another part of the mine, they should be informed where these are.

**27** A list of first-aiders should be posted in the first-aid room and in covered accommodation.

**28** The notices should be in English; in addition, a version in any language commonly used at the establishment should be displayed alongside the English version. The actual location of equipment should be clearly identified. Where the Safety Signs Regulations 1980 apply, the identification should be by means of a sign complying with them.

## Duty of self-employed person to provide first-aid equipment

### Regulation

5

### Regulation 5

*A self-employed person shall provide, or ensure that there is provided, such equipment, if any, as is adequate and appropriate in the circumstances to enable him to render first-aid to himself while he is at work.*

### ACOP

5

**29** Self-employed persons whose occupations involve hazards such as the use of potentially dangerous tools or machinery or whose work involves using dangerous substances should provide themselves with suitable first-aid equipment depending on the nature of the hazard.

## Power to grant exemptions

### Regulation

6

### Regulation 6

*-(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Health and Safety Executive may, by a certificate in writing, exempt any person or class of persons, from any of the requirements imposed by these Regulations, and any such exemption may be granted subject to conditions and to a limit of time and may be revoked at any time.*

*(2) The Executive shall not grant any such exemption unless, having regard to the circumstances of the case, and in particular to –*

- (a) the conditions, if any, which it proposes to attach to the exemption, and*
- (b) any other requirements imposed by or under any enactment which apply to the case,*

*it is satisfied that the health, safety and welfare of employees and self-employed persons and the health and safety of other persons who are likely to be affected by the exemption will not be prejudiced in consequence of it.*

## Cases where these Regulations do not apply

### Regulation

7

### Regulation 7

*These Regulations shall not apply –*

- (a) where the Diving Operations at Work Regulations 1981<sup>(a)</sup> apply;*
- (b) where the Merchant Shipping (Medical Scales) (Fishing Vessels) Regulations 1974<sup>(b)</sup> apply;*
- (c) where the Merchant Shipping (Medical Scales) Regulations 1974<sup>(c)</sup> apply;*
- (d) on vessels which are registered outside the United Kingdom;*
- (e) in respect of the armed forces of the Crown and any force to which any provision of the Visiting Forces Act 1952<sup>(d)</sup> applies.*

- (a) S.I. 1981/399*
- (b) S.I. 1974/1192*
- (c) S.I. 1974/1193*
- (d) 1952 c.67.*

## Application to mines

### Regulation

8

### Regulation 8

*-(1) Subject to paragraph (2), in their application to mines, Regulation 3 and 4 shall have effect as if the owner of the mine were the employer and as if the persons for the time being employed at the mine were his employees.*

*(2) Paragraph (3) and (4) of Regulation 3 shall not apply in relation to mines.*

### ACOP

8

**30** This Regulation disapplies regulation 3(3) and (4) to mines and places on the owner of a mine the duties under Regulation 3(1) and (2), and regulation 4 which usually fall to the employer. As the person with overall responsibility for making financial and other provision to ensure that the mine is operated in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions which apply to the mine he has the duty to ensure that adequate equipment and facilities for first aid are provided. He also has the duty to ensure that sufficient numbers of qualified and competent persons are appointed to render first aid in accordance with these Regulations. The owner may wish to give the mine manager the duty not only to ensure that the equipment and premises provided in compliance with these Regulations are properly maintained but also to deploy the appointed first-aiders to different shifts and different parts of the mine in order to comply with these Regulations. Although the duty to make first-aid provision for the mine as a whole is placed on the owner, employers will still be responsible for ensuring that their own employees are properly provided with all necessary first-aid provision.

## Application offshore

### Regulation

9

### Regulation 9

*Subject to Regulation 7, these Regulations shall apply to and in relation to any premises or activity to or in relation to which sections 1 to 59 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 apply to virtue of Articles 6 and 7(a), (b) and (d) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (Application outside Great Britain) Order 1977<sup>(a)</sup> (which relate respectively to mines extending beyond Great Britain and to certain activities concerning vessels and construction works in territorial waters).*

(a) S.I. 1977/1232

# Repeals, revocations and modification

Regulation
10

## Regulation 10

*-(1) The enactments mentioned in column (1) of Schedule 1 are hereby repealed to the extent specified opposite thereto in column (3) of that Schedule.*

*(2) The Orders and Regulations mentioned in column (1) of Schedule 2 are hereby revoked to the extent specified opposite thereto to column (3) of that Schedule.*

### **Further information**

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