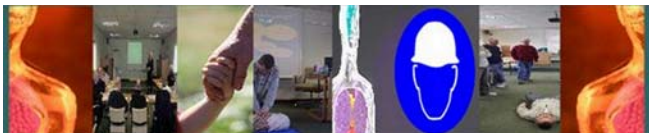


NEWSFLASH



Changes to First Aid Courses

FIRST AID AT WORK

New Course Framework October 09

With effect from 1st Oct 2009: the qualification of persons providing first aid assistance in the workplace has changed.

There are now two certificates available;

- **First Aid at Work Certificate (FAW)** a full three day course followed by a two day re-certification every 3 years.
- **Emergency First Aid at Work Certificate (EFAW)**, a one day course in emergency first aid at work

ALL FIRST AID CERTIFICATES EXPIRE AFTER 3 YEARS

The HSE state;

“Selecting the appropriate course will depend on the circumstances of the workplace and will be informed by the findings of the employer’s first aid needs assessment.” A three year certificate will be issued to those who successfully complete an FAW or EFAW course.

The HSE strongly recommends that first-aiders undertake annual refresher training during any three-year FAW/EFAW certification period. Although not mandatory, this will help qualified first-aiders maintain their basic skills and keep up to date with any changes to first-aid procedures.

At the end of the 3 year period, it will be necessary to re-qualify.

It is important to remember that accidents and illness can happen at anytime. First-aid provision needs to be available at all times people are at work.

What is the EFAW Certificate?

The new one day Emergency First Aid at Work Course EFAW although similar to the previous Emergency Aid Courses for ‘Appointed Persons’ being run by many organisations.

The new courses must now be provided by training organisations that have been approved by HSE.

The EFAW certificate will have an expiry limit of 3 years.

Annual revision is strongly recommended by the HSE. All first aiders should attend a Half-day revision period every 12 months.

SUMMARY

All employers need to review their first aid arrangements and assess their needs and provide training.

The findings of your assessment will depend largely on the risks associated with your business.

As a general rule Construction is classed as high risk and trained first aiders will be needed.

Emergency first aiders may be used as support during absence due to illness, or training

If you require further assistance please contact the First Aid Desk

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