

Changes to First Aid Regulations

Background

The Current First Aid in the Workplace provision is based on Regulations over 25 years old.

In 2002 the HSE started a review of re-matching the needs of industry with first aid provision. Staff at First Rate Training have been involved with the HSE at regional level since 2002, during which time numerous consultation meetings took place looking at how best to move the first aid industry forward. The department responsible for monitoring first aid companies and driving these changes forward is the First Aid Approvals & Monitoring Section (FAAMS) which is a department within the HSE. Currently all HSE Approved training organisations must meet strict standards set and monitored by FAAMS.

Prerequisite

First of all we need to remember that the HSE has a remit to the employer and employee for first aid provision in the workplace. Surprisingly, it has no legal responsibility to the training industry itself, except in setting adequate training standards.

Finally, any changes must have the support of the employers so changes tend to compromise by giving in certain areas and taking back in others.

Although a considerable number of changes are proposed which mainly effect the training organisation, only the main changes are listed below.

Changes - Training Courses

- 1) The commonly known Appointed Person one day course (currently unregulated) is to come under the control of the HSE. It will be called Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW). The HSE recommends a yearly refresher course (3 hrs) and a repeat of the full EFAW course every three years. Trainees completing the EFAW course will be considered as first aiders.
- 2) The current 4 day First Aid at Work course (FAW) will be reduced to three days (18hrs). The HSE likewise recommends a yearly refresher (3 hrs) plus a two day (12 hr) re-qualification course every three years.

Changes - Employers

The HSE has produced guidance for employers (available on their website) which gives information on how to calculate the number of first aid staff needed against the potential risks at the premises. It also looks at where the two different first aid levels fit in. Please note the information is still very vague as previously provided by the HSE.

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Changes - Training Providers

HSE approved training providers will automatically be approved to run the EFAW 1 day course and the FAW course.

Other Changes - Training Providers

- The current requirement for 2 assessors for all FAW courses will be reduced to one assessor for courses of 6 or less trainees.
- In-house occupational health professionals can provide annual refresher training.
- HPC registered Paramedics will be exempt from requiring a FAW qualification to carry out training and assessing. They still require experience / qualifications in FA training and assessing.

Guidance to the Approved Code of Practice - Changes

- The HSE are issuing further guidance as to the requirements for first aid provision in the workplace.
- The above training changes result in two levels of first aider; this in turn will enable a closer match of first aid provision to the needs of the workplace. Although the HSE has produced draft guidance, on this matching process, this is likely to change and hence is excluded from this bulletin. Further information to follow.

Implementation Date

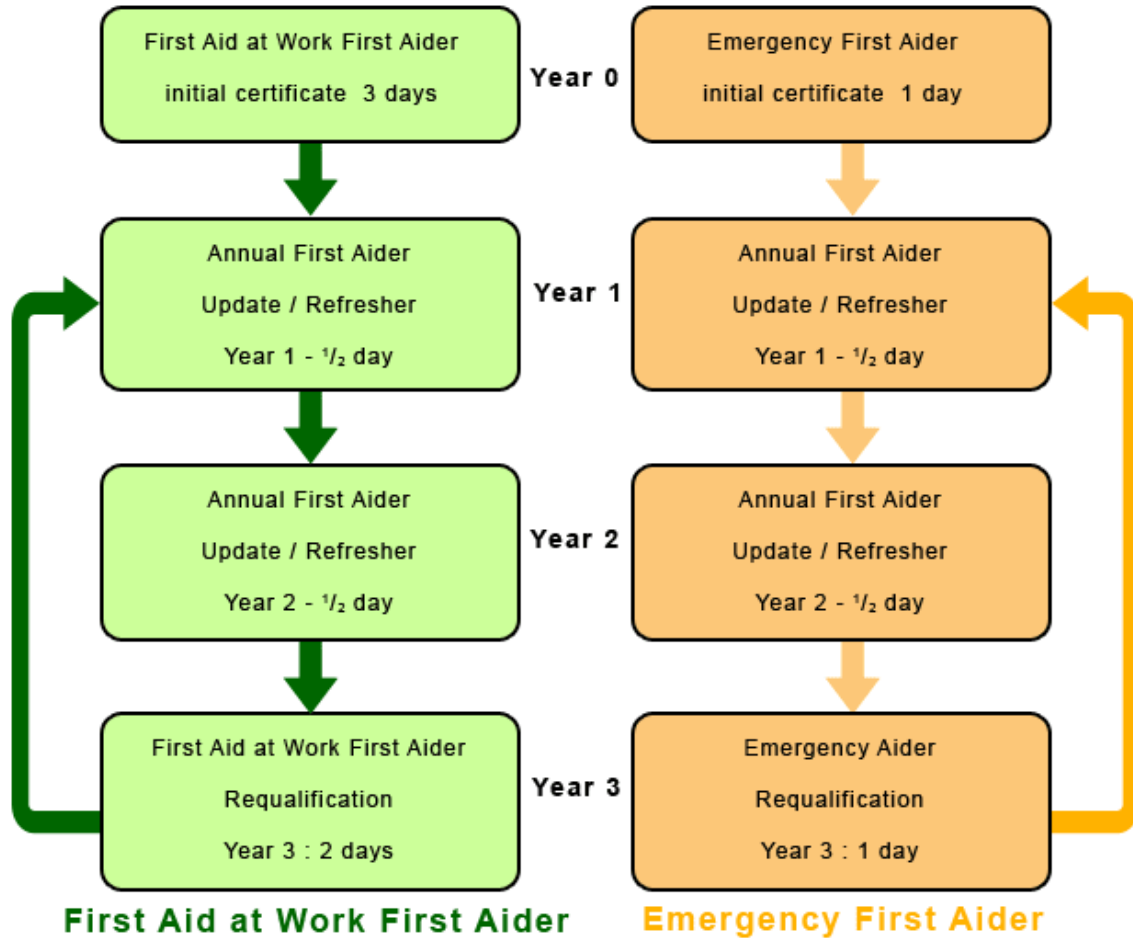
The HSE has recently announced an implementation date of 1st October 2009.

HSE Consultation Documents for download and reference

- <http://www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/program.htm>
- <http://www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/new.htm>

Please see below a flow chart of how the new changes will affect refresher/ update training. These changes are set to come in to force from 1st October 2009.

HSE First Aid at Work New First Aider Training Workplace Risk Assessment



For further information please contact one of the team on 0870 9770111 or drop us an email at admin@firstratetraining.co.uk

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