

BS 8599-1:2011



BSI Standards Publication

Workplace first aid kits

Part 1: Specification for the contents
of workplace first aid kits

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to ii, pages 1 to 6, an inside back cover and a back cover.

Foreword

Publishing information

This part of BS 8599 is published by BSI and came into effect on 30 June 2011. It was prepared by Technical Committee CH/100, *Healthcare and medical equipment*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Relationship with other publications

To ease the transition from the BHTA Guidelines to implementation of BS 8599-1 the guidelines are to continue to be available from www.bhta.net until 31 December 2011.

Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its requirements are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "shall".

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

1 Scope

This part of BS 8599 specifies requirements for the compilation of first aid components in small, medium, large or travel first aid kits for use in a workplace environment. Requirements are also given for the container holding the components.

NOTE 1 Workplace first aid kits can be complemented by other items that have been identified during a hazard assessment if necessary. Where there are unusual hazards that are specific to a particular undertaking or workplace environment, such as the use of hydrofluoric acid, workplace first aid kits should be supplemented with additional, appropriate components.

NOTE 2 Annex A gives recommendations on the amount and size of the first aid kits necessary for different workplace environments based on the category of risk and the number of employees at the workplace.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS EN 455-1, *Medical gloves for single use – Part 1: Requirements and testing for freedom from holes*

BS EN 455-2, *Medical gloves for single use – Part 2: Requirements and testing for physical properties*

ISO 7010:2011, *Graphical symbols – Safety colours and safety signs – Registered safety signs*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of BS 8599, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 emergency dressing

absorbent wound contact pad attached to a bandage for use on lacerations, cuts and burns to skin

3.2 first aid kit container

vessel used to hold first aid components, facilitating easy transportation and retrieval

NOTE Typically this can be a box, case or bag.

3.3 travel first aid kit

first aid kit designed to be transportable and used by an employee when working away from the employer's workplace

NOTE A travel first aid kit could be stored in a company car, van, tractor, etc.

3.4 workplace environment

any workplace where one or more people are engaged in paid employment

3.5 workplace first aid kit

collection of first aid components held in a container, stored in a workplace environment

4 Contents of a workplace first aid kit

The contents of a (small, medium, large or travel) workplace first aid kit shall be in accordance with Table 1.

5 Container

The container shall be able to fit all of the relevant components inside and close securely. The container shall be clean, dustproof and provide protection for the contents in a workplace environment.

NOTE When selecting an appropriate container, temperature, maintenance, material durability and robustness should be considered.

6 Marking

The container shall be legibly and durably marked with the following:

- a) number and date of this standard (i.e. BS 8599-1:2011) ¹⁾;
- b) symbol of a white cross conforming to ISO 7010:2011, type E003;
- c) the words 'FIRST AID' in white text.

NOTE Depending on the market the container should also have the words 'FIRST AID' marked in the local language, e.g., in Welsh or Gaelic.

¹⁾ Marking BS 8599-1:2011 on or in relation to a product represents a manufacturer's declaration of conformity, i.e. a claim by or on behalf of the manufacturer that the product meets the requirements of the standard. The accuracy of the claim is solely the claimant's responsibility. Such a declaration is not to be confused with third-party certification of conformity.

Table 1 Contents of a workplace first aid kit

Component	Description	Quantity			
		Small	Medium	Large	Travel ^{A)}
Guidance leaflet	Provides brief first aid guidelines	1	1	1	1
Contents list	Provides a list of first aid kit components included in kit	1	1	1	1
Medium sterile dressing	Conforming bandage: min. 7.5 cm width and min. 2 m stretched length, with an absorbent pad: not less than 12 cm × 12 cm	4	6	8	1
Large sterile dressing	Conforming bandage: min. 10 cm width and min. 2 m stretched length, with an absorbent pad: not less than 18 cm × 18 cm	1	2	2	1
Triangular bandage	Min. of 20 gsm non-woven material or cotton, not less than 90 cm × 90 cm × 127 cm	2	3	4	1
Safety pins	Min. length of 2.5 cm	6	12	24	2
Eye pad sterile dressing	Conforming bandage: min. 5 cm width and min. 1.5 m stretched length or elasticated looped bandage, with an oval pad: not less than 7 cm × 5 cm	2	3	4	1
Sterile adhesive dressings	Water resistant, sterile, an island design, individually wrapped, min. surface area of 7.5 cm ² , dressing pad not less than 20% of the area	40	60	100	10
Alcohol free moist cleansing wipes	Individually wrapped, sterile, min. of 80 cm ²	20	30	40	4
Adhesive tape	Roll, individually wrapped, min. 2.5 cm width, 5 m length or 3 m long for the travel kit	1	1	1	1
Nitrile disposable gloves	Conforming to BS EN 455-1 and BS EN 455-2, large size (8-9)	6	9	12	1
Finger sterile dressing	Conforming bandage: min. 3.5 cm width and min. 30 cm stretched length, with a dressing pad: min. 3.5 cm ²	2	3	4	0
Resuscitation face shield ^{B)}	Includes a one-way valve	1	1	2	1
Foil blanket	130 cm × 210 cm	1	2	3	1
Eye wash	Sterile, min. effective volume of 250 mL	0	0	0	1
Burn dressing ^{C)}	Water-based gel-soaked dressing, sterile, min. 100 cm ² surface area	1	2	2	1
Shears	Suitable for cutting clothing, including leather	1	1	1	1
Conforming bandage	Min. 7.5 cm width and 4 m stretched length	1	2	2	1

^{A)} The quantities in the travel first aid kit are appropriate for one person only.

^{B)} The shield is used to protect a first-aider from infection from a casualty during mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

^{C)} A burn dressing cools the burn injury without any pre-cooling with water or any other medium. The dressing does not dry out within one hour of application.

NOTE Attention is drawn to the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 Approved Code of Practice and guidance [1] for details on guidance leaflets.

Annex A
(informative)

Guidance on first aid kit sizes for a workplace environment

The size of the first aid kits to be used in a workplace is determined by the number of employees and the category of hazard incurred by the workplace environment; see Table A.1.

Where there are special circumstances, such as remoteness from emergency medical services, shiftwork or sites with several separate buildings, there might need to be more first aid kits than set out in Table A.1.

Table A.1 Guidance of first aid kit sizes for a workplace environment

Category of hazard	Number of employees	Number and size of first aid kit
Low hazard e.g. shops, offices, libraries, etc.	Fewer than 25	1 small kit
	25–100	1 medium kit
	More than 100	1 large kit per 100 employees
High hazard e.g. light engineering and assembly work, food processing, warehousing, extensive work with dangerous machinery or sharp instruments, construction, chemical manufacture, etc.	Fewer than 5	1 small kit
	5–25	1 medium kit
	More than 25	1 large kit per 25 employees

Bibliography

- [1] HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE. *The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 Approved Code of Practice and guidance*. L 74. London: HSE Books, 2009. ISBN 9780717662609.

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