First Aid at Work

OCTOBER 1st 2009 sees the introduction of changes in the First Aid at Work Regulations.

The HSE has concluded that whilst many workplaces had people trained to provide first aid there were deficiencies in how skills were kept up to date and also that the right number of people with the right skills were present in the workplace.

The new Regulations seek to address these issues. In essence the new Regulations are:

1. The four day First Aid at Work (FAW) course will be shortened to three days.
2. There will be a new qualification of Emergency First Aider (EFAW) which will be a one day course.
3. The FAW requalification course will remain unchanged at two days.
4. The FAW qualification is still valid for three years.
5. It is strongly recommended that annual three hour refresher training is carried out to retain skills for both First Aiders and Emergency First Aiders.
6. Trainers for both qualifications must be from HSE approved providers.
7. The Appointed Person for low risk environments still exists.

Existing First Aid qualifications will remain valid until the certificate expires at which time the new Regulations will apply. If you are an existing or newly qualified first aider you can continue to give the relevant degree of first aid under the new regulations. You should, however, consider annual refresher training.

The numbers and type of First Aiders required in the workplace is decided by a risk assessment which should consider:

1. The hazards and risks within the workplace and the activities carried out.
2. The number of people employed.
3. The travel time from emergency help.
4. The needs of those who work alone or remote from the main workplace.
5. The need to cover holidays and absences of existing first aiders and Appointed Persons.

The HSE is to issue renewed guidelines for the number of first aiders in low and high risk workplaces in October. Following the issue of these guidelines a review of your existing risk assessment should be carried out to ensure you have the right number and type of First Aiders.

Quick ‘Nine Hole’ Quiz Answers:


Crossword

Monster Sudoku

Squiggy Sudoku