

First Aid WHS Changes FAQ



Why the changes to WHS? (Work Health & Safety Act)

Safe Work Australia has developed a model code of practice for first aid in the workplace. The Commonwealth and each State and Territory government have agreed to harmonise their work health and safety laws, including Regulations and Codes of Practice.

Under the new legislation, the PCBU (Person conducting a business or undertaking) must:

- ✓ Provide adequate first aid equipment and ensure that each worker has access to it
- ✓ Ensure access to facilities for the administration of first aid
- ✓ Ensure that an adequate number of workers are trained to administer first aid at the workplace



What is in the new first aid kits?

Contents of WHS first aid kits should be based on a risk assessment and designed to provide the basic equipment for administering first aid for injuries including:

- ✓ Cuts, scratches, punctures, grazes and splinters
- ✓ Muscular sprains and strains
- ✓ Minor burns
- ✓ Amputations and/or major bleeding wounds
- ✓ Broken bones
- ✓ Eye Injuries
- ✓ Shock

(Please see Table 1: What a WHS first aid kit should contain)

If I already have a first aid kit, what do I need to do?

Review the workplace risks and upgrade first aid kits as necessary. If your first aid kit already complies with previous State and Territory first aid requirements, you may not need to buy a whole new kit. You could convert or retrofit your existing kit instead. However, depending on how many individual new items you need to buy, it may be cheaper to buy a new kit. See WHS content list. (Table 1).

How do we work out how many kits we need and what to put in them?

In the event of a serious injury or illness, quick access to the kit is vital. First aid kits should be located close to areas where there is a higher risk of injury or illness and be able to be retrieved promptly. Therefore it may be better to have two small kits in different locations in your workplace rather than one larger centrally located kit. A portable kit should be provided in vehicles of mobile workers.

Minimum contents for a Standard WHS Kit. (Table 1)

How often should I be checking my first aid kit, and what should I be checking for?

A person in the workplace should be nominated to maintain the first aid kit (usually a designated first aider) and should:

- ✓ Monitor access to the first aid kit and ensure any items used are replaced as soon as practicable after use.
- ✓ Undertake regular checks (after each use or, if the kit is not used, at least once every 12 months) to ensure the kit contains a complete set of the required items. (An inventory list in the kit should be signed and dated after each check).
- ✓ Ensure the items are in good working order, have not deteriorated and are within their expiry dates.

Where should a first aid kit be located?

In the event of a serious injury or illness, quick access to the kit is vital. First aid kits should be kept in a prominent, accessible location in the workplace and able to be retrieved promptly. First aid kits should be located close to areas where there is a higher risk of injury or illness (Example: kitchen, workshop, loading dock)

Do I need a first aid kit in my company car?

A "workplace" is a place where work is carried out for a business or undertaking and includes any place where a worker goes, or is likely to be, while at work, including a car.

A portable first aid kit should be provided in the vehicles of mobile workers if that is their workplace (couriers, taxi drivers, sales representatives, bus drivers, inspectors, etc.).

What size and shape is best for a first aid kit?

First aid kits can be any size, shape or type to suit your workplace, but each kit should:

- ✓ Be large enough to contain all the necessary items
- ✓ Be immediately identifiable with a white cross on green background that is prominently displayed on the outside
- ✓ Contain a list of the contents for that kit
- ✓ Be made of material that will protect the contents from dust, moisture and contamination.

What other first aid equipment I should consider?

Based on your assessment:

- ✓ Defibrillators
- ✓ Eye Wash
- ✓ Shower Equipment
- ✓ Additional modules for remote work (Extra bandages, whistle, torch, thermo blanket)
- ✓ Additional modules for outdoor work (more items for bites and stings)
- ✓ Additional modules for the treatment of burns

What is a 'module' in a first aid kit?

The term 'module' has been used for some time to describe a group of additional items to be added to first aid kits where specific hazards exist. Burn, outdoor and remote modules have been developed to treat injuries that are more likely to occur in these situations.

Do we need a first aid room?

A first aid room should be established at the workplace if a risk assessment indicates that it would be difficult to administer appropriate first aid unless a first aid room is provided.

A first aid room is recommended for:

- ✓ Low risk workplaces with 200 workers or more
- ✓ High risk workplaces with 100 workers or more

WHS First Aid Kits and Modules:

Item Code	WHS Certified Kits	WHS Certified Kits	DESCRIPTION
			WHS KITS
677501			NATIONAL WORKPLACE KIT - WALL MOUNT
677502			NATIONAL WORKPLACE KIT - PORTABLE
677503			NATIONAL WORKPLACE KIT - WAIST BAG
640009			NATIONAL WORKPLACE KIT - BASIC
600203			CAR SAFETY KIT
			MODULES
640041			BURN MODULE
640042			REMOTE MODULE
640043			OUTDOOR MODULE

Contents in WHS First Aid Kits (Table 1):

Item Code	WHS Certified Kits	WHS Certified Kits	DESCRIPTION
	677501 677502 677503	BASIC KIT 640009	FIRST AID ITEMS
1010	3	1	BANDAGE – CONFORMING 5cm
102009	3	1	BANDAGE – CONFORMING 7.5cm
106409	1	1	BANDAGE – HEAVY DUTY CREPE 10cm
112801	1	1	TAPE HYPO-ALLERGENIC 2.5cm x 9.1m
118109	2	1	BANDAGE TRIANGULAR 110 X 110CM
1210	1		INSTANT COLD PACKS (St John)
202509	5	2	SWABS GAUZE STERILE 7.5 X 7.5cm (5s)
2060	1		DRESSING PAD – COMBINE 10 x 20cm
2090	1	1	DRESSING WOUND NO. 14
209109	1		DRESSING WOUND NO.15
213909	1		DRESSING NON-ADHERENT 10 x 10cm
2140	3	2	DRESSING NON-ADHERENT 7.5 X 10CM
2152	6	3	DRESSING NON-ADHERENT 5 x 5cm
217009	4	2	DRESSING PAD EYE - LARGE
223009	1	1	STRIPS PLASTIC ADHESIVE IN BOX x 50
301009	1	1	SISSORS – 12.5cm SS SHARP/BLUNT
307009	1	1	FORCEPS S/S-SHARP 12.5CM
308009	1	1	BLANKET EMERGENCY SHOCK 185 x 130cm
3130	1	1	SAFETY PINS – ASSORTED 12s
3140	1	1	NOTEPAD WITH ONE PENCIL
3225/1	1	1	EMERGENCY FIRST AID QUICK GUIDE
3646	1	1	PEN- BLACK BALL PINT (Med)
4070	1	1	PLASTIC BAG RESEAL. 100X180CM
4080	1	1	PLASTIC BAG RESEALABLE 150 X 230MM
4090	1	1	PLASTIC BAG RESEALABLE 230 X 300MM
505410L	10	2	SWABS ANTISEPTIC
511111	8	4	AEROWASH EYE/WOUND WASH (15ml)
E1974	2	1	SPLINTER PROBES - DISPOSABLE CAPPED (5s)
3538		1	RESCUSOMASK DISPOSABLE
LA820008	1		MASK-LAERDAL (St John Pocket)
305410L	10	2	GLOVE NITRILE X 2 IN BAG- LARGE
5053	10	6	POVIDONE IODINE SWAB
514000	5	5	BURNAID GEL 3.5gr (Sachet)