

First aid at work newsletter

Issue 4 July 2008

Introduction

This issue of the first aid at work (FAW) newsletter for FAW training providers gives you an update on:

- the review of the FAW Regulations;
- answers to questions/issues raised by your industry.

Review of the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981

HSE has published a report on the findings of a recent consultation exercise on draft guidance notes for employers and first aid training providers. The report can be viewed at: www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/review/mar08.htm and the draft documents at: www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/review/jul08update.htm.

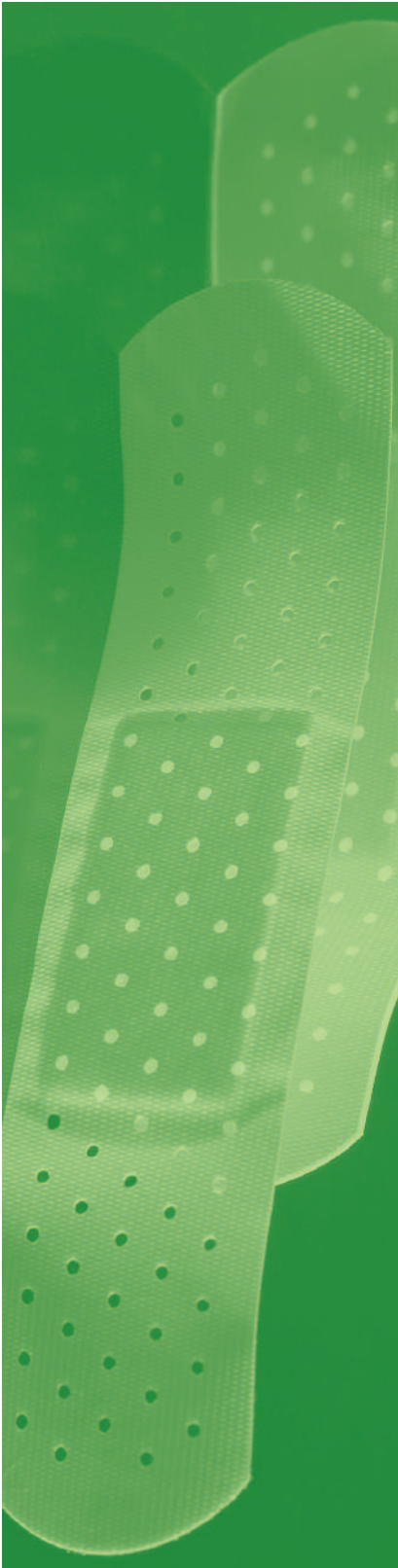
HSE has published several updates on the forthcoming changes to first aid training and approval arrangements, as follows:

- Summary note of an FAW stakeholder meeting
www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/review/june08.htm
- Implementation of the changes
www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/review/jun08implement.htm
- Interim changes and delivery of FAW training by third parties
www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/review/jun08interim.htm



Post Approval Monitoring Visits

To organise a Post Approval Monitoring Visit, HSE's Contractor will contact training providers for information on when they are running FAW courses. A date for the visit can then be arranged. Despite considerable efforts to contact them, some training providers are failing to respond. Please make sure your contact details are kept up to date and that you respond promptly to requests from our Contractor for course dates. Failure to do so may affect your approval status.



FAQs

Approval to run FAW courses in Northern Ireland

Q Does my HSE approval allow me to run FAW courses in Northern Ireland?

A No. To run FAW courses in Northern Ireland, you will need to apply for approval to the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (www.hseni.gov.uk).

FAW requalification training

Q Can a first aider undertake FAW requalification training before the three-month period prior to their certificate expiry date?

A HSE has received a number of enquiries on this topic. Employers can send their first aiders on FAW requalification courses more frequently than once every three years. In such circumstances, the FAW certificate should be dated from the day the course has been successfully completed and should be valid for three years from that date.

HSE Approval Number

Q Can I put my HSE Approval Number on appointed persons and paediatric first aid certificates?

A No. Your HSE approval number should only be used on FAW certificates as your organisation is approved by HSE for FAW and FAW requalification training only and not for any other type of first aid training.

Non-English speaking first aiders

Q Can an individual who is unable to speak English become a first aider in the workplace?

A Ultimately, employers are responsible for ensuring that any first aiders they provide in their workplace are suitably trained and competent to perform their role. In proposing to use non-English speaking first aiders, the employer should consider how they will be able to communicate effectively with those at an incident, as well as with the emergency services, if needed. Before FAW training, it would be useful for the employer to have discussions with the training provider about any arrangements that might be needed, for example, an interpreter to help with the training. In addition, the employer should make sure all employees are informed of the first aid arrangements. Those with language difficulties could be informed by means of translated first aid notices.

For queries on general aspects of FAW, contact HSE's Infoline
(Tel: 0845 345 0055 e-mail: hse.infoline@natbrit.com)

For queries about your own approval or the approval process, contact the FAAMS team
(Tel: 0151 951 3919 e-mail: faams@hse.gsi.gov.uk)