

CONSULTATION RESPONSES ON THE PROVISION OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND FIRST AID KITS IN LICENSED VEHICLES

Response Number	Support	Comment	Capacity of response	Officers Comments
1.	Yes	From the list of items needed if many more things are added we will need industrial size kit. Why do we need 10 wipes? Etc. Please make it reasonable kit that can be purchased easily.	Licensed Hackney Carriage Driver	The items listed within the committee report (11 April 2013) are generally less than those contained with BS 8599-1:2011).
2.	No (first aid)	I am lead to believe... Drivers are not supposed to use First Aid Kits on the public. Without putting themselves at risk of possible legal action. I therefore submit that it should be at the licensee's discretion whether or not they carry a first aid kit. It should NOT be a licensing issue. As it does not affect public safety.	Licensed Driver	There has never been any expectation that drivers would administer first aid, but that a first aid kit is available for suitable qualified individuals to use if required. Officers do not agree that it does not affect public safety.
	Yes (fire extinguisher)	Fire extinguishers are most useful in case of a small localised fire e.g. electrical cables may rub away exposing the copper core, thus causing a blaze. Swift action with an extinguisher would minimise damage and possible avoid a raging fire. This would obviously be a risk to the public. Therefore I respectively submit that fire extinguishers should remain as part of the licensing regime.		Agree
3	Yes	We are in support of the amendment	Licensed Trade Representation	Agree
4	No	I am not in favour of the councils proposals to change the fire extinguisher and first aid kit changes	Licensed Hackney Driver	The revision allows the updating of old conditions to meet

5.	No (fire extinguisher)	Members will be aware that Derby City Council introduced conditions requiring licensed hackney carriages and private hire vehicles (Taxis) to carry fire extinguishers during the 1980's when fires in vehicles were more prevalent. At that time drivers and their passengers were allowed to smoke in licensed vehicles (which is now prohibited); the upholstery and carpets used in vehicles were not only less fire retardant than they are today, but the materials used in their construction contained chemicals that are now prohibited from use. In addition the construction of vehicles is now significantly more stringent and controlled than it has been previously. This has resulted, over the last ten years or so, in the numbers of fires occurring in motor vehicles being reduced to an all-time low while the numbers of vehicles on our roads has continued to increase year on year. If the Council are to retain a licensing condition in relation to the provision of fire extinguishers then it must include a requirement for the extinguisher to be securely fixed to prevent the extinguisher becoming a dangerous projectile and causing injury, if the vehicle is involved in a road traffic accident. There are realistically two locations where a fire extinguisher can be stored in a vehicle and these are either within the passenger compartment or within the luggage area (boot) of the vehicle. If the extinguisher is carried in the passenger compartment for ease of use in an emergency, then not only could it be used by a passenger as a weapon, but the extinguisher can be accidentally or maliciously activated while the vehicle is in motion causing damage to the vehicle and creating a serious risk of a road traffic accident occurring. Some Fire and Rescue Services in the UK recommend that hand-operated fire extinguishers in cars should only be used as	Licensed Operator	current BSI Standards. There has never been any expectation that drivers would fight a fire, but that an extinguisher is available for suitable qualified individuals to use if required. Many statements are supposition and the opinion of the writer. They are not supported by evidential documentation.
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		a “first-aid” fire fighting implement and when the fire is in its initial stages, i.e.: very small and easily contained. If the extinguisher is located in the boot of the vehicle then it is likely that by the time the driver has evacuated his passengers to a place of safety and returned to the vehicle to collect and discharge the extinguisher in fighting the fire, the fire will have grown to such an extent that an extinguisher will not provide sufficient means by which to extinguish the fire. In reality due to changes in the legislation preventing smoking in licensed vehicles and improvements in manufacturing including improvements to upholstery and carpets and it is likely that any fire will result either from an electrical fault within the wiring system or will occur in the engine compartment. Many fire authorities now recommend that extinguishers should only be used by people who have been suitably trained. There can be occasions when attempts to combat vehicle fires can actually increase the risk of injury. For example the abrupt opening of the bonnet can create an influx of oxygen which would serve to increase any fire hazard in the engine bay, and could also lead to burns from hot metal surfaces. Many materials used in modern engine construction give off noxious or harmful fumes when burning and many authorities including the police consider the risk of injury from fumes and smoke as serious as injury from fire itself. It is standard operating procedure in most Fire and Rescue Services for fire-fighters not to approach vehicle fires unless they are wearing breathing apparatus. As Members will note Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service do not install fire extinguishers in their vehicles due to the Health and safety risks of untrained personnel attempting to use extinguishers in emergency situations.	

		Based on the above one has to ask the question if the imposition of a condition requiring a fire extinguisher to be carried in a taxi has a positive effect. The answer to this question, bearing mind the issues raised above and the fact the driver will not be trained in the use of the fire extinguisher has to be that there is no positive effect from requiring a vehicle to carry an extinguisher. Ultimately, the risk of a fire occurring in a licensed vehicle is extremely low and even if a fire were to occur then the likelihood of the driver being able to evacuate his vehicle and then return to fight the fire before it is out of control are minimal at best. Therefore the council should remove the condition relating to fire extinguishers with immediate effect and should allow proprietors to make an informed decision as to whether or not to install extinguishers in vehicles on a voluntary basis.		
Yes with suggested requirement (first aid)		Again Members will be aware that the requirement for first aid kits, was introduced in the 1980s at the same time as the requirement for fire extinguishers. Unlike fire extinguishers, there is a requirement under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its associated Regulations the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 which require employers to provide adequate and appropriate equipment, facilities and personnel to ensure that employees receive immediate attention if they are injured or taken ill at work. These regulations apply to all workplaces including those with fewer than five employees and to the self-employed and for businesses to have first aid kits available for the use of their employees or the public. There is therefore an argument that first aid kits should be provided in taxis and we do not disagree with this philosophy.	Officers believe that having regard to this response that the revised wording in the original report should be replaced by the requirements for a SMALL Workplace First Aid Kit as specified in BS 8599-1: 2011.	BS 8599-1: 2011 was prepared by Technical Committee CH/100, Healthcare and medical equipment. It specifies requirements for the compilation of first aid components in small, medium,

		The British Healthcare Trade Association has worked with the British Standards Institute (BSI), to create a new British standard for first aid kits in the workplace. The BS 8599-1 standard (published in June 2011) recommends the correct number of particular components for small, medium, large or travel-size kits and also recommends how many kits are needed depending on the size of the organisation. It sets the minimum level that first aid kits should conform to and should be followed by manufacturers of first aid kits and anyone who assembles first aid kits in the workplace. If the council are to retain the requirement for first aid kits in vehicles then the licensing condition should require the first aid kit to be a 'travel first aid kit' complying with BS-8599-1:2011 and should not be overly prescriptive in respect of the contents as minimum requirements are set out in the British Standard. This will then allow members of the trade to purchase first aid kits 'off the shelf' that meet the appropriate British Standard, in the knowledge that they will be fit for purpose.			large or travel first aid kits for use in the workplace environment. The definition of a travel first aid kit is; a first aid kit designed to be transportable and used by an employee when working away from the employer's workplace. The quantities in a travel first aid kit are appropriate for one person only.
6	Yes	I totally agree with and fully support the recommendation as outlined in your consultation documentation.	Licensed Private Hire Driver Licensed Hackney Carriage Driver Licensed Operator	Agree	

KIT CONTENT	SMALL KIT	MEDIUM KIT	LARGE KIT	TRAVEL KIT	CHANGES TO CONTENT	INDICATION OF USE (For Guidance Only)
First Aid Guidance Leaflet	1	1	1	1	No Change	conforming to the current HSE guidance
First Aid Kit Contents List	1	1	1	1	New List	to maintain a check of required kit content
Medium 12 x 12cm Sterile Dressing	4	6	8	1	Reduced Qty	for treatment of small to medium wounds
Large 18 x 18cm Sterile Dressing	1	2	2	1	Reduced Qty	for treatment of medium to large wounds
Triangular Bandage	2	3	4	1	Reduced Qty	for immobilisation of limbs
Sterile Finger Bandage	2	3	4	0	New Item	for injuries to fingers where plasters are too small
No 16 Sterile Eye Pad	2	3	4	1*	New Item*	to protect the eye after use of saline solution
Adhesive Plasters Ass'd Sizes **	40	60	100	10	Increased Qty	for treatment of small cuts and grazes
Sterile Eye Wash Solution 250ml	0	0	0	1	New Item	for eye irrigation
Burn Dressing 10cm x 10cm	1	2	2	1	New Item	for treatment of minor burn injuries
Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes	20	30	40	4	Increased Qty	for cleaning area surrounding the wound
Safety Pins	6	12	24*	6	Increased Qty*	to secure dressings and triangular bandages
Adhesive Tape 2.5cm x 10m	1	1	1	1	New Item	alternative to safety pins for securing dressings
Disposable Nitrile Glove	6	9	12	1	Increased Qty	to protect the first aider when treating injured person
Resuscitate Face Shield	1	1	2	1	New Item	to protect the first aider from cross infection
Emergency Foil Blanket	1	2	3	1	New Item	to maintain patient temp. and reduce risk of shock
Heavy Duty Clothing Shears	1	1	1	1	New Item	for cutting through clothing to gain access to wound
Conforming Bandage 7.5cm x 4m	1	2	2	1	New Item	for the retention of burn dressing

*Blue Plasters Included In Food / Catering Kits

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 x 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 x 18 cm	1	2	2	1
Triangular bandage	Min. of 20 gsm non-woven material or cotton, not less than 90 cm x 90 cm x 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 x 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 x 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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