

FIRST-AID IN THE WORKPLACE

LEARNING OUTCOME

Describe the requirements of the State Government's current workplace health and safety legislation and standards relating to first aid.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Describe the Basic Concepts relating to First Aid
- Describe the First Aid Requirements utilising a Risk Management approach
- Describe the functions and requirements of First Aid Personnel
- Describe the various consultation and information sources

REFERENCES

- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 – Section 42 First Aid
- First Aid in Workplace Code of Practice 2014.
- Model Code of Practice First Aid in workplace (Safe Work Australia)

ATTACHMENTS

[First Aid in the Workplace Code of Practice 2014](#)

FIRST AID IN THE WORKPLACE

FIRST AID KITS

All workers must be able to access a first aid kit. This will require at least one first aid kit to be provided at their workplace.

Contents

The first aid kit should provide 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.

The contents of first aid kits should be based on a risk assessment. For example, there may be higher risk of eye injuries and a need for additional eye pads in a workplace where:

- chemical liquids or powders are handled in open containers
- spraying, hosing or abrasive blasting operations are carried out
- there is any possibility of flying particles causing eye injuries
- there is a risk of splashing or spraying of infectious materials
- welding, cutting or machining operations are carried out.

Additional equipment may be needed for serious burns and remote workplaces.

The recommended content of a typical first aid kit and information on additional equipment is provided in Appendix C of *First aid in the workplace code of practice 2014*.

MEDICATIONS

A work health and safety review of medications in the workplace concluded that there was no need for the inclusion of scheduled substances in first aid kits. This recommendation was discussed with Queensland Health and resulted in significant changes to the law relating to the types of first aid kit medications a person in the workplace is allowed to obtain and use.

If your first aid kit contains any medications which are labeled in the following manner, they must not be held in the kit or used by first aiders or occupational health and safety personnel to treat people in the workplace. Suppliers of first aid items are not permitted to sell these substances for use in workplace first aid kits.

Prohibited Medications

Medications labeled:

- PHARMACY MEDICINE or 'Caution S2'
- PHARMACISTS ONLY MEDICINE or 'Caution S3'
- PRESCRIPTION ONLY MEDICINE or 'Caution S4'
- CONTROLLED DRUG or 'Caution S8'

For example:

- Analgesics
- Paracetamol or aspirin (in packets containing more than 25 tablets), Panadeine, Dispirin, Codeine based products
- Eye treatments – Albalon, Antistine – Privine, Visine, Murine
- Burn creams – Mediderm, Derb-Aid, Medi-Crème, Silvazine

FIRST AID TRAINING

First aiders should hold nationally recognised statement/s of attainment issued by a registered training organisation (RTO) for the nationally endorsed first aid unit/s of competency.

Apply first aid provides competencies required to recognise and respond to common life-threatening injuries or illnesses, including life-support using cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and to manage the casualty and incident until the arrival of medical or other assistance.

In low risk workplaces, first aiders are sufficiently trained if they can perform CPR and treat minor illnesses and injuries.

The training course *Apply advanced first aid* – provides additional competencies required to apply advanced first aid procedures. This type of training is suitable for some high risk workplaces.

Manage first aid in the workplace (occupational first aid) – provides competencies required to apply advanced first aid procedures and to manage a first aid room.

Provide first aid in remote situations – provides the competencies required to administer first aid in a remote and/or isolated situation, including preparing for aero-medical evacuation. This type of training is suitable for high risk workplaces that are likely to have a major delay in accessing emergency services.

Aspects of Anaphylaxis medication

First aiders may also need to undertake additional first aid training to respond to specific situations at their workplace. For example, where workers have severe allergies, first aiders should be trained to respond to anaphylaxis if this topic has not been covered in previous first aid training.

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