



# The British Standard for first aid kits has been updated. **What you need to know.**

## BS 8599-1:2019 Explained

### What's new?

As part of a constant improvement process the BSI (British Standards Institute), has undertaken a review of the BS8599-1 Workplace and Vehicle Standards.

Following the introduction of BS 8599-1 Workplace First Aid Kits (2011) and BS 8599-2 Vehicle First Aid Kits (2014), as part of a constant improvement process, the BHTA undertook a review of these standards. A working group was tasked with this review, and were also asked to make recommendations for any proposed changes to the standard. This group first met in May 2015 and the new standard launched on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2019, the previous standard will now be phased out over the next 6 to 12 months.

### What's changing?

The requirements of the contents of a first aid kit have continually evolved and this has been recognised by the British Healthcare Trades Association (BHTA) who has worked, analysed and developed a solution that is fit for purpose in today's workplace environment.

The British Standards Institute (BSi) have updated the contents of the following kits to meet the new standard:

- + Workplace First Aid Kits
- + Vehicle First Aid Kits

The BSi have also introduced two new kits:

- + Personal Issue First Aid Kit
- + Critical Injury Pack

From January 2019 these kits will become the 'BS 8599-1:2019' Compliant First Aid Kits for workplaces in the UK.

The consensus was that both parts (BS 8599-1 and BS 8599-2) of the standard were broadly meeting the needs of the industry, users and other stakeholders. However, content revisions were required to ensure the standards kept up to date with advancements in first aid product and provision technology, and to ensure adherence to current workplace practices and potential risks. These content revisions are outlined below:

#### Home and Workplace First Aid Kits

The standard workplace kits have been reviewed and amended to suit the modern workplace, the associated risks and to keep up to date with advancements in first aid product and provision technology.

#### Travel and Motoring First Aid Kits

Travel and Motoring First Aid Kits were in conflict under the old BS 8599-1 standard. A single Travel and Motoring First Aid Kit has now been introduced.

#### Personal Issue First Aid Kits

A Personal Issue First Aid Kit has been introduced for lone workers. The kit is for those employed in work activities away from the workplace such as ground, security, maintenance and cleaning personnel.

#### Critical Injury Pack

The European Resuscitation Council now recommends the supplying of tourniquets and haemostatic dressings in situations identified as high risk in risk assessments.

### How will this affect the market?

The new standard came into effect January 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 and the old standard will be phased out over the following six to twelve months.

**For more information on the new standard go to [www.bsigroup.com](http://www.bsigroup.com)**