

H.S.E. First Aid at Work Regulations – Changes in October 2009

From 1st October 2009 the 1981 H.S.E. (First Aid) Regulations will change, and the change will affect both first aid training providers and employers. The changes planned to come into effect are summarised below:

1. The *current* 4-day (24 contact hours) First Aid at Work course will now be completed over 3 days (18 contact hours). The assessment criteria will remain the same except that only ONE assessor will be mandatory with courses less than 6 delegates; this particular change in the assessment has already been implemented.
2. The validation period for the above course will still be three years. First aiders wishing to requalify should attend a 2-day requalification course, as before, ideally *before* their current certificate expires. In any event, the H.S.E. will continue to allow a 28 days grace.
3. Because the primary courses are now only three days the H.S.E. **“STRONGLY RECOMMEND”** that first aiders attend an **annual** refresher course to keep their skills and knowledge fresh and up-to-date. This *refresher* course will be of 3 hours (1/2 day) duration, it will **not** re-qualify the first aider for a further three years – only the 2-day requalification course can do that.
4. Only first aid training organisations approved by the H.S.E. can run the above course.

THE NEW EMERGENCY FIRST AID AT WORK COURSE (one-day)

1. Because some companies in the past do not have a need for a fully qualified first aider but at the same time need more than an APPOINTED PERSON, the H.S.E. have introduced a new first aid qualification. This EFAW (Emergency First Aid at Work) course will be completed over 1-day and is continually assessed by the instructor during the course of the day; this certificate will also last for three years. To requalify this EFAW certificate, first aiders of this course need to take the whole course again.
2. Because the EFAW course is only one day the H.S.E. **“STRONGLY RECOMMEND”** that first aiders attend an **annual** refresher course to keep their skills and knowledge fresh and up-to-date, similar to the 4-day course. This *refresher* course will be of 3 hours (1/2 day) duration, it will **not** re-qualify the first aider for a further three years – only by re-attending 1-day course can the holder get a new certificate.
3. Only first aid training organisations approved by the H.S.E. can run the above course.

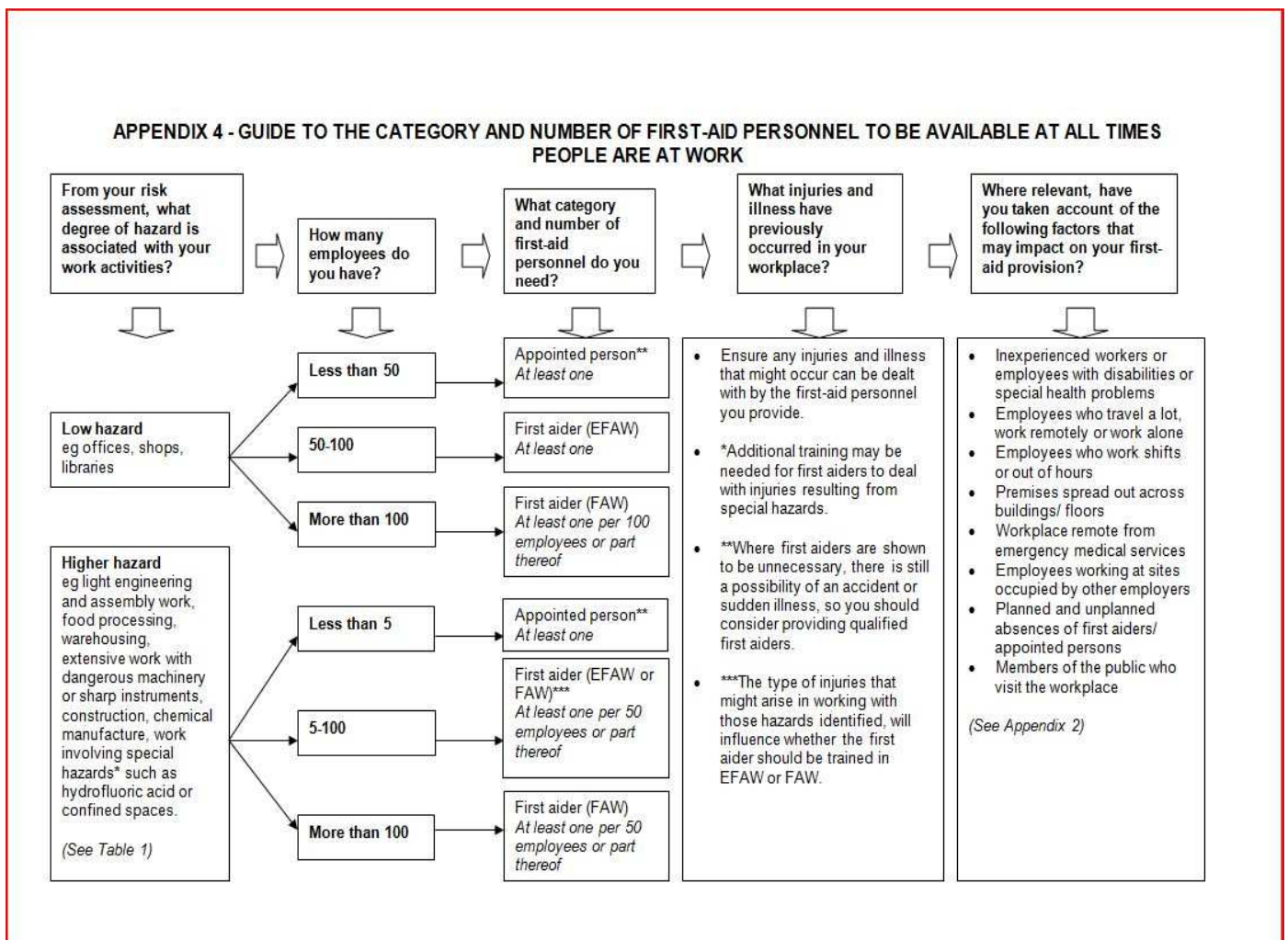
THE APPOINTED PERSON COURSE

Whilst the current APPOINTED PERSON position will remain unchanged, it is expected that people will attend the EFAW course rather than an AP course. This is because the EFAW is a *qualification* gained by attaining a level of *competence*; the AP course certificate is that of *attendance* and is *not* a legal requirement, but a recommendation.

F.A.Q.

Q. How will I know on which course to send my employees?

A. This will depend on your *risk assessment*. Look at the number of employees against the risk factor. Whilst the H.S.E. are not prescriptive about how you do this assessment, they do offer guidelines, a copy of which is below.



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FIRST-AID COURSES TO COMPLETE OVER AN INITIAL THREE YEAR PERIOD AND IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS

