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Which First Aid course do I or my staff need?

The revision in First Aid legislation comes into effect from October 1st 2009. Since the previous revision the average UK workplace has changed dramatically. Today, workplaces generally are low risk and have immediate access to the emergency services via mobile phones. Under the new revision the traditional 4-day First Aid at Work course is not seen as appropriate for all employers any more. To summarise simply there are to be two levels of first aid accreditation from October 1st:

Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) for those employees in low risk workplaces e.g. offices, shops and call centres. This will be a 6 hour (1-day) award

First Aid at Work (FAW) for more remote or hazardous environments e.g. light industry, construction, food processing. This will be an 18-hour (3-day) award, reduced from the previous 24-hour course length.

Additionally all employers are 'highly recommended', by the Health and Safety Executive, to give their staff responsible for first aid an **annual 3-hour refresher training**.

How does the employer know which course their staff need?

Employers are required to undertake a hazard assessment of the workplace to decide which course to take.

First aid at work Your questions answered -

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg214.pdf>

Basic advice on first aid at work -

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg347.pdf>

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