

In 1998 the Medical Services and First Aid regulation, 29 CFR 1910-151, was revised. The revision states, *“in the absence of an infirmary, clinic, or hospital in near proximity to the workplace which is used for the treatment of all injured employees, a person or persons shall be adequately trained to render first aid. Adequate first aid supplies shall be readily available.”* The revised regulation eliminated the statement, *“. . . first aid supplies approved by the consulting physician shall be readily available.”* In addition to the regulation was Appendix A—a non-mandatory guideline. This appendix demonstrates an example of the minimal contents of generic first aid kits according to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z308.1-1978, Minimum Requirements for Industrial Unit-Type First Aid Kits. * The contents listed in Z308.1-1978 should be adequate for small worksites. The employer is responsible for determining the need for additional first-aid kits, quantities and the types of supplies at the worksite for large/larger worksites.

***Note:** The new non-mandatory Appendix A refers to ANSI Z308.1-1978 *“Minimum Requirements for Industrial Unit-type First-aid Kits”*. Since Appendix A was added, ANSI has updated Z308.1-1978 to the 1998 standard. OSHA is expected to revise Appendix A to reference the updated ANSI Z308.1-1998 after determining that it is as effective as the earlier standard.

Classification of First-Aid Kits

Under the new ANSI standard, Z308.1-1998 kits are divided into three different categories or classifications. Kits must also meet the requirements, the performance and testing requirements set by the standard.

Type I:

Intended for use in stationary, indoor applications where kit contents have minimal potential for damage. These kits are not intended to be portable and should have a means for mounting in a fixed position. Some applications for Type I first aid kits are: general indoor use, office use or in a light manufacturing facility. First aid cabinets would fall into this classification.

Type II:

Intended for use in portable indoor applications. Kit contents should have minimal potential for damage. These kits should be equipped with carrying handle(s) and be subjected to a drop test (See ANSI Z308.1-1998 for drop test information). Some applications for Type II first aid kits are: general indoor use, office or manufacturing environments.

Type III:

Intended for portable use in mobile industries and/or outdoor applications. Kits should be moisture resistant, equipped with a carrying handle, have the means for being mounted in a fixed position, and should also be corrosion resistant. Type III kits must meet specific performance requirements, (Please see Section 5.4.4 of ANSI Z308.1-1998 for testing requirements). Typical applications for Type III first aid kits would be the transportation industry or construction jobsites.

Basic Fill Contents for Type I, II and III Kits

| Item and Minimum Size or Volume | Minimum Quantity |
|--|------------------|
| Absorbent Compress, 32 sq. in. (No side smaller than 4") | 1 |
| Adhesive Bandages, 1" x 3" | 16 |
| Adhesive Tape, 5 yd. | 1 |
| Antiseptic, .5g application | 10 |
| Burn Treatment, .5g application | 6 |
| Medical Exam Gloves | 2 pr. |
| Sterile Pads, 3" x 3" | 4 |
| Triangular bandage, 40" x 40" x 56" | 1 |

Note: In addition to the above minimum contents, a kit should have optional items added, based upon specific workplace hazards. The selection of additional supplies should be made by consulting with a health care professional or a person competent in first aid who is knowledgeable of the hazards found in that specific workplace. The optional items shall meet specifications stated in Section 5.3 of ANSI Z308.1-1998.

Marking and Labeling

All first aid contents meeting the "Minimum Requirements of Basic Fill Contents" shall be marked with, at the least, ANSI Z308.1-1998 designation. Each complete first aid kit meeting the requirements of ANSI Z308.1-1998 must have a label on the back or outside of the kit with the information listed in the box below. All labeling should be legible and permanent and should be written with, at the least, a six-point font.

| ANSI Z308.1-1998 Type I, II or III | |
|---|--|
| Caution: This kit meets ANSI Z308.1-1998 only when the minimum is maintained with first aid products marked "ANSI Z308.1-1998." | |
| Required Minimum Fill | |
| Qty. | Description |
| 1 ea. | Absorbent Compress, 4" x 8" min. |
| 16 ea. | Adhesive Bandages 1" x 3" |
| 5 yd. | Adhesive Tape |
| 10 ea. | Antiseptic Applications, 0.5g ea. |
| 6 ea. | Burn Treatment Applications, 0.5g ea. |
| 4 ea. | Sterile Pads, 3" x 3" min. |
| 2 pr. | Medical Exam Gloves |
| 1 ea. | Triangular Bandage, 40" x 40" x 56" min. |

Minimum Requirements for Unit First Aid Kits

Section 6 of the ANSI Z308.1-1998 standard discusses minimum requirements of unit first aid kits. Unit first aid kits are kits in which the contents are packaged in uniform-size boxes that contain one or more applications of first aid supplies. In unitized First Aid Kits, packaging must meet the specific requirements for dimensions, physical stability, marking and labeling. Please see ANSI Z308.1-1998 for packaging requirements. Packages must also be color coded, using the following guidelines: **Blue:** Antiseptic; **Yellow:** Bandages; **Red:** Burn Treatment; **Orange:** Personal Protective Equipment; **Green:** Miscellaneous

Common Questions

- Q.** Is a consulting physician required to approve first aid supplies?
- A.** No. According to 29 CFR 1910.151, first aid supplies do not need to be approved by a consulting physician. They should, however, be selected by a person competent in first aid and knowledgeable of the hazards found in the specific workplace.
- Q.** Is it required that first aid kits be regularly inspected to ensure that contents are complete and up-to-date?

- A.** No, but first aid kits should be regularly inspected to ensure that they are full, in good condition and have not expired. The contents list for the first aid kits should be periodically reviewed to ensure that it meets the needs of the workplace hazards at all times.
- Q.** Can over-the-counter medicine be put in first aid kits?
- A.** Over-the-counter medicine can be put in first aid kits if packaged in single dose, tamper-evident packaging and labeled as required by FDA regulations. Over-the-counter drug products should not contain ingredients which are known to cause drowsiness.

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