

First Aid Kit Requirements

What is required in a first aid kit? Who sets the standards for these requirements, and where can you find them? If you are an employer, you need to know the answers to these questions. You cannot simply assemble a few first aid items and call it a workplace kit, nor can you use just any first aid kit in the workplace. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that employers use first aid kits that meet the standards established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z308.1-1998. The standards apply to both the container and its contents.

The ANSI standard describes:

- The classification of first aid kits
- Minimum requirements for workplace first aid kits and supplies
- Performance requirements for the containers
- Marking and labeling requirements
- Dimensions, quantity, and labeling requirements for first aid products packaged by unit

There are four types of approved first aid kits:

Type	Use	Portable	Mountable	Water Resistant	Waterproof	Performance
I	Indoor		X			
II	Indoor	X				
III	Indoor/ Outdoor	X	X	X		
IV	Indoor/ Outdoor	X	X		X	Requires corrosion, moisture, and impact resistance

There are minimum requirements for a first aid kit. Both standards contain an appendix that refers to the ANSI standard Z308.1-1998. The standard requires all first aid kits to contain, at a minimum, the items in the table below. The 2015 ANSI revision introduced two classes of first aid kits. Class A kits are designed to deal with the most common types of workplace injuries. Class B kits have a broader range and quantity of supplies to deal with injuries more complex or in high-risk environments.

Item	Class A Minimum Quantity	Class B Minimum Quantity	Minimum Size or Volume
Adhesive Bandages	16	50	1 x 3 in.
Adhesive Tape	1	2	2.5 yd (total)
Antibiotic Application	10	25	1/57 oz (0.5g) applications
Antiseptic	10	50	1/57 oz (0.5g) applications
Breathing Barrier	1	1	



Item	Class A Minimum Quantity	Class B Minimum Quantity	Minimum Size or Volume
Burn Dressing	1	2	4 x 4 in.
Burn Treatment	10	25	1/32 oz (0.9g) applications
Cold Pack	1	2	4 x 5 in.
Eye Covering	2	2	
Eye Wash	1 fl oz	4 fl oz	
First Aid Guide	1	1	
Hand Sanitizer	6	10	1/32 oz (0.9g) applications
Medical Exam Gloves	2 pair	4 pair	
Roller Bandage	1 0	2 1	2 in x 4 yd 4 in x 4 yd
Scissors	1	1	
Padded Splint	0	1	4 x 24 in.
Sterile Pads	2	4	3 x 3 in.
Tourniquet	0	1	1 in. (width)
Trauma Pads	2	4	5 x 9 in.
Triangular Bandage	1	2	40 in. x 40 in. x 56 in.

Source: American National Standards Institute

Any over-the-counter drug product included in a first aid kit should be in single-dose, tamper-evident packaging with full labeling and should not contain any product known to cause drowsiness. Many employers buy large bottles of aspirin, ibuprofen, or other over-the-counter tablets and make them available in first aid kits. However, since the tablets are not individually wrapped and labeled, they do not meet ANSI standard.

Other items may be included in the first aid kit, but each optional fill item must comply with ANSI requirements. All unit items in the first aid kit must be individually wrapped or contained in individual applicators. The items must be kept clean and sterile. The standard also prohibits reuse of individual applicators. All unit packages within the first aid kit must be labeled with:

- The name of the item (must appear at least on the top panel and on one end panel)
- The quantity
- Instructions and/or illustrations for proper use
- The name of the manufacturer, packer, and distributor

All unit packages must be labeled in compliance with the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (and applicable state and federal regulations) and must include the following color code on at least one top panel and one end panel: **blue** for antiseptics, **yellow** for bandages, **red** for burn treatment, **orange** for personal protective equipment, and **green** for miscellaneous .



First Aid Kit Proper Label Example

ANSI Z308.1-1998 Type I (Or II Or III)

Caution: This kit meets ANSI Z308.1-1998 only when the required minimum fill is maintained, with first aid products marked "ANSI Z308.1-1998."

Required Minimum Fill

1 absorbent compress, 4 in. x 8 in. minimum

16 adhesive bandages, 1 in. x 3 in.

5 yds. adhesive tape

10 antiseptic applications, 1/57 oz (0.5g) each

6 burn treatment applications, 1/32 oz (0.9g) applications

4 sterile pads, 3 in. x 3 in. minimum

2 pairs medical exam gloves

1 triangular bandage, 40 in. x 40 in. x 56 in. minimum

Sources for more information

OSHA Medical Services and First Aid regulation, 29 CFR 1910.151

American National Standards Institute-ANSI

<http://www.ansi.org/>

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