

First aid newsletter



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Changes to the UK resuscitation guidelines

Following the revision of the UK resuscitation guidelines on 18 October 2010, HSE has outlined what its expectations will be of training providers concerning these changes. This can be viewed at: www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/resuscitation-guidelines.htm. If you receive a post approval monitoring visit, the visiting officer will expect you to demonstrate that you have a plan in place to make sure implementation will be achieved within the timescales specified. Further guidance on the changes to the UK resuscitation guidelines can be found at: www.resus.org.uk/pages/bls.pdf.

For queries on general aspects of FAW, contact HSE's Infoline (Tel: 0845 345 0055 e-mail: hse.infoline@connaught.plc.uk)
For queries about your own approval or the approval process, contact the FAAMS team (Tel: 0151 951 3919 e-mail: faams@hse.gsi.gov.uk)





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Visiting officers are now asking training providers to make available lists of all third party relationships at the time of a monitoring visit. The list should contain the name, address and contact details of all third parties and the date the relationship was established. They will be also asking for evidence that the quality assurance system applied to third parties is at least identical to that of your own organisation.

Third parties are considered fixed permanent sites and if the numbers exceed five, you will need additional visits, HSE will use the list provided to select the sites for monitoring. Approved organisations are still required to deliver FAW training and cannot completely outsource this activity to third parties.

There is also a requirement that third parties need to undertake a minimum of six FAW courses per year, if they only deliver EFAW training, this is unacceptable for the purposes of HSE's approval system. In these circumstances, we would require the third party and the approved organisation to work together to resolve this situation. Any approved organisation or third party only wanting to deliver EFAW training (and not FAW) should seek approval from an Awarding Body eligible to award an accredited qualification in EFAW, applying a training standard set by HSE.





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Anecdotal information has come to our attention that training on the administration of aspirin on FAW courses appears to be inconsistent. The view of HSE is that the administration of medication by a first aider is not part of a FAW or EFAW training course, but you can assist an individual in taking it. However, the one exception is when training students on first aid for heart attacks, when this subject must be covered. Therefore, for heart attack management, the student must be able to assist a casualty in taking 300 mg of aspirin and to advise them to chew it, not swallow.





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While currently not a regulatory requirement, HSE would always look to FAW/EFAW trainers and assessors to be able to demonstrate a competency to train/assess.

This can most readily be achieved by obtaining/holding a formal training/assessing educational qualification. If an individual held such a qualification, we would consider that as evidence of competency and best practice.





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HSE is spending a significant amount of time checking if organisations delivering FAW training as a third party, are in an actual relationship with an HSE approved training provider. To reduce demands on our resource, we are now requesting HSE approved training providers who have third party relationships, to make sure clients being trained by third parties can identify that the training is certified by an HSE approved training provider. One way of achieving this is by requesting third parties, in any marketing literature, to have identification that allows the client to verify their status.

For example, 'FAW/EFAW training is delivered by [insert name of third party] on behalf of [insert name of HSE Approved Company], an HSE approved training organisation, HSE approval number xxxx/xx'.

Ideally, contact details for the approved training provider should be made available to allow the client to verify this relationship, on request.





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Time extension for attending requalification courses

As all training providers are aware, HSE does not give extensions to students who will complete a FAW requalification course beyond 28 days. Due to the recent bad weather, we have received enquiries from training providers and duty holders requesting extensions beyond the 28 days. Please be aware, this extension is a discretion exercised by HSE and is designed to take into account unforeseen circumstances such as illness and bad weather. It is the responsibility of the duty holder to make sure first aiders who need to attend a requalification course complete the training within that time frame or up to three months prior to the certificate expiring, if they wish to attend a two-day requalification course. This means that the duty holder should plan requalification training so that it is undertaken prior to expiry. If they cannot achieve this, they will have to attend a three-day FAW course.





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Update on awarding bodies

There has been a recent update on our website which explains the governance arrangements between awarding bodies and HSE via Ofqual and SQA. Any HSE approved organisations considering becoming an awarding body and delivering the EFAW accredited qualification are strongly advised to read this update which can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/update-awarding-bodies.htm.

FAAMS approval and maintenance issues

If you are due to renew your certificate and your post approval monitoring visit is overdue, we will not renew your certificate. The fees HSE charge for maintaining or obtaining approval to deliver FAW or offshore first aid/offshore medic training for the financial year 2011-12 will remain unchanged from those charged during 2011-2010.

