



COLD STORE FIRST AID REQUIREMENTS

Copyright © 2020 – British Frozen Food Federation

All Rights Reserved

Introduction

There are no specific legal requirements for numbers of first aiders or appointed persons, only a general requirement for employers to provide an adequate and appropriate number of suitable persons to provide first aid to employees who are injured or become ill at work.

However HSE do provide some guidance in Appendix 3 of L74, their Approved Code of Practice to the Health and Safety (First-aid) Regulations 1981: (Contains public sector information published by the Health and Safety Executive and licensed under the Open Government Licence v1.0)

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l74.pdf>

The cold store environment will be considered to be 'higher hazard' in HSE's opinion. For the purposes of first aider numbers, each shift should be considered individually which, assuming there are 5 or more employees on each shift, would mean at least 1 EFAW or FAW trained first aider per shift. Again, this is not a legal requirement but considering the work environment it would be considered reasonable if called into question.

In deciding whether to train them in FAW or EFAW, the content of each course and the hazards faced in the cold store environment should be compared. For instance, the EFAW course run by St John Ambulance covers the basics of bleeding, burns, choking, CPR, movement, fainting, seizures, shock and unconsciousness. The full FAW course however contains additional elements such as stroke, strains, spinal injuries, low blood sugar, head injuries, eye injuries, chest pains, bone/muscle/joint injuries, allergies and asthma. If any of these additional medical conditions or injuries are present or reasonably foreseeable then the full FAW course should be undertaken.

Absences such as holidays, illness and break times should also be considered. It is possible that this can be managed by first aiders swapping shifts but it may be more straightforward to train at least one additional EFAW first aider or appointed person to cover for absence.

Other factors will play a part in an assessment of first aider numbers including:

- Proximity to nearest A&E hospital
- Local ambulance response time
- Whether first aiders can be shared with other employers nearby





British Frozen Food Federation

Registered Office: Warwick House, Unit 7, Long Bennington Business Park, Main Road, Long Bennington, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG23 5JR

Tel: 01400 283090

Fax: 01400 283098

Websites: www.bfff.co.uk

www.freshfromthefreezer.co.uk

A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 7687541

VAT Reg. No. GB 115 5466 23

