

## First Aid Kits

# New Cal/OSHA Standard Coming Soon

**C**AL/OSHA IS in the process of updating its regulations on first aid kit requirements, an effort that's stirred up controversy over some of the proposed elements.

According to a report by the trade publication *Cal-OSHA Reporter*, one of the most controversial parts of the proposal is that a doctor or other licensed health care professional approve the first aid kit for use.

As an alternative, however, a company can avoid seeking approval if the first aid kit complies with the 2021 version of the American National Standards Institute/International Safety Equipment Association Z308.1 standard (ANSI/ISEA Z308.1).

California employers should expect the new rules to take effect sometime this year.

### ANSI/ISEA first aid kit requirements

The ANSI/ISEA Z308.1 standard includes requirements for two types of first aid kits: Class A and Class B. The latter is intended for larger workplaces, and mostly contains more of everything that's in Class A kits, plus a few extra items. And in larger workplaces, more than one Class B kit is required.

### Approving your kit

If you don't opt for an ANSI/ISEA-compliant

first aid kit, you'll have to seek out a doctor or a licensed health care professional to approve the kit. It's still unclear how this process will work.

Once the final regulations are released, we'll have a clearer picture and will provide an update.

### Other requirements

All employees shall have ready access to a first aid kit, including employees at remote worksites or in work vehicles. The location of each first aid kit shall be clearly indicated.

Employers are required to "frequently" inspect their first aid materials, which they must replenish as necessary.

### The takeaway

While the proposed regulation has not yet taken effect, it's likely that it will be soon.

You may want to get a head start by securing an ANSI/ISEA-compliant first aid kit or kits for your workplace(s). It will likely be a less expensive and bureaucratic option than assembling your own kit and seeking approval from a doctor or licensed health care practitioner. ❖



## Proposed Class A Kit Contents Requirement

16 Adhesive Bandages: 1" x 3" (2.5 x 7.5 cm)	1 Eye/Skin Wash: 1 fl oz total (29.6 ml)
1 Adhesive Tape: 2.5 yd (2.3 m)	1 First Aid Guide
10 Antibiotic Applications: 1/7 oz (0.5 g)	1 Foil Blanket: 52" x 84" (132 x 213 cm)
10 Antiseptics: 1/7 oz (0.5 g)	10 Hand Sanitizers: 1/32 oz (0.9 g)
1 Burn Dressing (gel soaked): 4" x 4" (10 x 10 cm)	4 Medical Exam Gloves
10 Burn Treatments: 1/32 oz (0.9 g)	1 Roller Bandage: 2" x 4 yd (5 cm x 3.66 m)
1 Cold Pack: 4" x 5" (10 x 12.5 cm)	1 Scissors
1 CPR Breathing Barrier	2 Sterile Pads: 3" x 3" (7.5 x 7.5 cm)
2 Eye Coverings with means of attachment: 2.9" sq (19 sq cm)	2 Trauma Pads: 5" x 9" (12.7 x 22.9 cm)
<i>Source: Cal/OSHA proposed regulation</i>	1 Triangular Bandage: 40" x 40 x 56" (101 x 101 x 142 cm)

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## There is a 60-Day Waiting Period After Buying a Policy

keep firms from purchasing a policy just before an expected deluge or when it looks like their property may imminently flood.

### Limits

Commercial flood insurance premiums can cost a few hundred dollars a month up to several thousand dollars a year depending on the size of your facilities.

Policies typically provide up to \$500,000 of coverage for your building and up to \$500,000 for its contents.

You may be able to purchase additional insurance for catastrophic events. This type of coverage usually includes protection against business interruption.

### Think ahead

While California has been in a drought and the storms are not enough to alleviate it completely, the wild weather this winter illustrates how unpredictable weather can flood properties that are not in designated flood zones. ❖