

NEW British Standard for Motor Vehicle First Aid Kits (BS 8599-2)

On February 1st 2014, The British Standards Institution (BSI) announced its first UK standard for motoring first aid kits BS 8599-2. This is the first time since the motor car arrived on British roads in the latter part of the 19th century, that the basic safety needs of road traffic accident victims has been addressed and a first aid kit has been recommended for each and every vehicle on the road.

The Department for Transport reported 185,540 road casualties in Great Britain in the year ending June 2013. The number of people killed or seriously injured were 23,530.

This comprehensive Standard specifies three sizes of vehicle first aid kits, with suitable contents for all types of vehicles, including motor bikes, private cars, taxis, mini buses, commercial vehicles, buses and coaches.

The kits have been devised by leading road safety experts and are seen as best practice for the treatment of minor wounds and more serious injuries prior to the arrival of the emergency services.

At Safety First Aid we have put together a comprehensive range of options for the new BS 8599-2 Motor Vehicle Kits including versions in our rigid plastic Evolution series cases, soft nylon cases and vinyl wallets. Our selection of Vehicle Kits will not only allow your customers to be safer on the road but they will also allow them to choose a compliant kit in a case or bag that suits their requirements.

What size kit should be used in which vehicle?

The size of the first aid kits required for motor vehicles is determined by the category of hazard and by the number of potential passengers in the vehicle (See table below).

Number of passengers	Vehicle examples	Number and size of first aid kits required
1 to 3	Mopeds, motorcycles, motor tricycles and quadricycles	1 x small
1 to 8	Cars, vans, taxis and commercial vehicles	1 x medium
1 to 16	Minibuses, small buses	1 x large
17+	Buses, coaches	2 x large*

Where there are special circumstances, such as remoteness from emergency medical services or unusual hazards specific to a particular undertaking, there might be a need to provide a greater number of first aid kits than outlined in the table and/or to supplement first aid provision with additional appropriate components, e.g. additional foil blankets. In these instances, a risk assessment would need to be carried out to ascertain the requirements.

What is in the BS 8599-2 Vehicle First Aid Kits?

Contents	Description	Small	Medium	Large
First Aid Guidance Leaflet	Provides brief first aid guidelines	1	1	1
HypaCover Trauma Dressing, Large	A pressure bandage measuring a min of 15x400cm (stretched length) and conforming to BS 7505:1995 type 3B with a wound pressure pad not less than 15x18cm of at least 500gsm, with a flow adherent wound contact surface.			1
HypaCover Trauma Dressings, Medium	A pressure bandage measuring a min of 10x400cm (stretched length) and conforming to BS 7505:1995 type 3B with a wound pressure pad not less than 10x18cm of at least 500gsm, with a flow adherent wound contact surface.	1	1	2
HypaCover Sterile Dressings, 12x12cm	A conforming bandage measuring a min. 5cm width and min. 200cm (stretched length) with an absorbent pad, not less than 12x12cm.		1	2
HypaBand Triangular Bandages	Min. of 20gsm non-woven material or cotton; size not less than 90x90x127cm		1	2
HypaClean Sterile Wipes	Individually wrapped and sterile saline; min.size 8cm ²	5	10	20
HypaPlast Washproof Plasters	Water resistant, sterile, island dressing design. Individually wrapped with a min. surface area of 7.5cm ² , dressing pad not less than 20% of the surface area.	5	10	20
HypaGuard Nitrile Gloves (Pair)	Conforming to BS EN 455-1 and BS EN 455-2 large size (8-9).	1	2	5
HypaGuard Face Shields	Includes a one way valve.	1	1	2
HypaGuard Foil Blankets	Size not less than 210x130cm.		1	3
HypaCover Adherent Dressings, 10x10cm	Non-woven material, sterile, island dressing design. Min. size 7.5x7.5cm. Dressing pad not less than 20% of surface area.		1	2
Burn Dressings, 10x10cm	Water-based, gel-soaked dressing. Sterile with a minimum surface area of 100cm ² .	1	2	4
Clothing Cutters	Suitable for cutting clothing including leather and seat belts. Min. size 18cm	1	1	1