



What is a 'First Aider'?

The HSE Event Safety Guide defines a First Aider as: "a person who holds a current certificate of first-aid competency issued by the three voluntary aid societies (or certain other bodies or organisations registered with the HSE); St John Ambulance, British Red Cross Society or St Andrew's Ambulance Association."

In addition, anyone providing first aid at an event must:

- be at least 16 years old and not over 65 years old
- have no other duties or responsibilities
- have identification
- have protective clothing
- have relevant experience or knowledge of requirements for first aid at major public events
- be physically and psychologically equipped to carry out the assigned roles.
- Also, first aiders under 18 years old must not work unsupervised.

Note: The completion of a three-day 'First Aid at Work' course does not necessarily qualify a person as competent to administer first aid to members of the public. Where "First Aid at Work" qualified persons are used then the organiser must check that they are covered by their insurers to give first aid to members of the public.

The Guide also specifies that:

Public First Aid is a very different scenario to the workplace. First Aiders should not have other jobs to do as well - for example stewarding or security, although this does not stop stewards or security personnel from being first-aid trained.

Those providing first aid at events must have access to proper facilities.