

**Reference No:** E109/50/92;     **Date:** 22/10/93

**Circular 22/1993:- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations, 1993;  
First-Aid**

A Dhuine Uasail

I am directed by the Minister for Finance to refer to the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations, 1993 which place a wide range of legal obligations on employers in relation to the protection of the safety and health of their employees in the work place. This Circular deals with the matters covered in Part IX of the Regulations, which concerns first-aid. All Departments will be affected by the matters covered in this Circular. In addition, each Department should carefully examine the other provisions in the Regulations to ensure compliance with any measures which are of particular relevance to circumstances in that Department.

2. Under the Regulations, Departments are required to:

(a) Ensure the provision and maintenance, where working conditions require it, of first-aid equipment suitably marked and easily accessible to enable first-aid to be rendered to persons at the place of work. First-aid means: (i) treatment to preserve life or minimise the consequences of injury or illness in a case where a person requires treatment from a registered medical practitioner or nurse, until the services of either of the latter are obtained and (ii) treatment in a case of minor injury which would otherwise receive no treatment or which does not need treatment by a registered medical practitioner or nurse.

(b) Ensure that sufficient occupational first-aiders are provided at each place of work to render first-aid at the place of work concerned, taking account of the size and/or specific hazards of the workplace. Civil Service premises are normally free of specific hazards. All occupational first-aiders must hold a certificate in first-aid, issued within the immediately preceding period of three years by a person who is recognised as an occupational first-aid instructor by an approved person. "Approved person" can be taken to mean the traditional bodies or the Ambulance Training School. Relevant private sector companies will be registered by the latter. If an occupational first-aid is absent in temporary and exceptional circumstances, an employer may designate a person, or ensure that a person is designated, to take charge of an injured or ill employee.

3. Any place of work used for the first time or modified, extended or converted after 31 December, 1992, must have first aid room(s) if the size of the premises, type of work and frequency of accidents so require. Such room(s) shall be fitted with essential first-aid equipment and facilities and shall be easily accessible for stretchers. The following places of work are not covered by this paragraph:

- \* means of transport used outside the undertaking and/or establishment, or workplaces inside means of transport;
- \* fishing boats;
- \* fields, woods or other land forming part of an agricultural or forestry undertaking which is situated away from the undertaking's buildings.

4. Departmental safety statements must include details of the arrangements made for the provision of occupational first-aid, including names of occupational first-aiders and the location of first-aid rooms, equipment and facilities for or at the place of work.

5. The attention of all serving staff and new entrants should be drawn to the contents of this Circular.

6. Questions arising from this Circular should be addressed in the first instance to the General Section of this Department (telephone 6767571 x 3543).

Mise le meas,

J McGovern  
Assistant Secretary