

FOFATO reports that the Lofstedt Report, reviewing the Health and Safety Regulations, has highlighted the following in relation to First Aid, which is of great importance to us as an independent training provider:

***Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981***

*5. A number of organisations have identified the requirement under the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 to have a qualified first-aid person appointed in the workplace as being an unnecessary requirement for low-risk workplaces.*

*6. In fact the regulations do not insist upon a particular number of first-aid personnel and there is a requirement for employers to make provision for first-aid under the Framework Directive 89/391. However, the regulations do currently stipulate that the training and qualifications for the appointed first-aid person must be approved by HSE and this appears to both go beyond the requirements of the Directive and have little justification. So long as they meet a certain standard, allowing businesses to choose training providers should allow them greater flexibility to choose what is right for their workplace, and possibly reduce costs.*

*7. This should be accompanied by revised guidance clarifying what is suitable for different environments to help businesses adopt measures that are suitable for their workplace, and that explains clearly what the regulations actually require.*

*I therefore recommend that HSE amends the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 to remove the requirement for HSE to approve the training and qualifications of appointed first-aid personnel.*

FOFATO's Ian Kershaw has been campaigning for this change since 2002. It's now a case of wait and see...