

**WORKSAFE SERVICES DIVISION
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
LEGISLATIVE INTERPRETATIONS**



Topic	First Aid – Readily Available, As Close as Practicable & Located at or Near	Issued by: V.P., WorkSafe Services
Statute	First Aid Regulation	Date Issued: Sept 15, 2004
Section	6(3), 7(4)(b), 12(2)(c), 13(1)	Date Revised:

6(3) An employer shall...ensure that transportation is readily available in the event of a medical emergency when work is carried out at an isolated site.

7(4) An employer shall ensure that an employee who is designated as a first aid provider has readily available access to disposable latex or vinyl gloves and a face shield with a one-way valve.

12(2) The requirements for a first aid room are as follows

(c) is located as close as practicable to the work force it is to serve and is clearly identified by a sign;

13(1) An employer shall ensure that the first aid kits are conspicuously located at or near the working area that they are intended to serve.

Question

What is meant by “readily available”, “as close as practicable” and located at or near?

Response

There is no formula to be applied to determine how available or close first aid services and supplies need to be. You should take into account the nature of the hazard, the severity of possible injuries and the accessibility (horizontal & vertical distance, weather conditions, physical impediments, etc) of the transportation, supplies or medical help to location of the injured worker.

Section 6(3) - With respect to transportation, every attempt should be made to get to a seriously injured person and transport them out to meet medical aid (EMTs) within an hour of their injury (“the miracle hour”) taking into account road and weather conditions.

Section 7(4) – These items are for the protection of the first aid provider. Therefore the First Aid Providers should determine, given the particulars of their workplace, the best location in order for the gloves and face shields to be readily available to them.

Section 12(2) - First aid rooms should be accessible to employees. For example it should not be in a distant guardhouse or administration building, separate from the work area with the highest risk of injury.

Section 13(1) - There are some place of employment that are divided into very distinct areas or different buildings. First aid kits should be located around the place of employment for the convenience of the trained first aid providers. For example a meat packing plant made up of three large buildings would have first aid kits in every building, in addition to the first aid room.