

First Aid & Medical Services

What are First Aid and Medical Services?

First aid and medical services are the two types of medical assistance provided to an injured or sick worker.

- **First aid** refers to medical attention that is usually administered *immediately* after the injury occurs and at the location where it occurred. First aid is usually a one-time, short-term treatment that requires little technology or training to administer. Cleaning minor cuts, scrapes, or scratches; treating a minor burn; applying bandages and dressings; using non-prescription medicine; draining blisters; removing debris from the eyes; massage; and drinking fluids to relieve heat stress are all examples of first aid. First aid does not have to be administered by a health care professional.
- **Medical services** refers to the medical attention given by a health care professional to an injured or sick worker. Medical services can be provided by a company nurse (in a large organization) or an emergency medical technologist (EMT), at the location where the injury/illness occurred. Medical services can also be provided at a clinic or hospital, where the injury or ill worker is taken.

What are the First Aid and Medical Services Requirements?

All imaging labs, both large and small, must meet the following requirements for first aid and medical services:

Medical Advice Employers must ensure there are medical professionals that can be called on for advice about health care matters associated with the imaging lab. This requirement simply means that the imaging lab employer needs to have a health care professional who can be called upon for guidance or recommendations concerning workplace health.

Near Proximity Medical Facility or First Aid If there is a medical facility (e.g., clinic or hospital) very close to the imaging lab, the employer can rely on that medical facility to provide both first aid and medical services. The standard doesn't define near proximity, leaving it to the employer to identify the types of injuries that might occur, and whether the medical facility can respond quickly enough to respond adequately. Where a medical facility is used to provide first aid, the employer does not need to maintain first aid supplies in the imaging lab.

Where there's no medical facility in near proximity, the employer must have trained first aid responders on-site, and appropriate first aid supplies.

- First aid training must be given by a recognized training agency such as the Red Cross. According to OSHA guidance documents, first aid training/retesting must occur at least once every three years and CPR training/retesting must occur at least annually.
- First aid supplies must be in keeping with the types of injuries that occur in the imaging lab, as well as with the number of employees on-site. While not a requirement, it may be helpful



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to consult the ANSI standard for guidance on what should be in your first aid kit. For a summary of the ANSI standard, click here [Minimum Requirements for Workplace First Aid Kits](#).

Locate first aid supplies near the area where an injury is likely to occur.

Emergency Eyewash and Shower Where corrosive materials are used, the employer must provide an emergency eyewash and drench shower. All imaging labs, regardless of size, must have at least one emergency eyewash. A quick review of the photochemical material safety data sheets (MSDSs) will show that an emergency eyewash is always recommended. In a large imaging lab, where there may be large holding tanks of photo chemicals, both an emergency eyewash and quick drench shower must be provided. OSHA has adopted both the ANSI emergency eyewash standard as well as emergency shower standard. For a summary of the standards, [click here](#).

What's the Next Step?

Use the compliance checklist on page 3 to find out whether you meet all of OSHA's medical and first aid requirements.

Where Can I Find More Information?

Use the following PMA and OSHA resources for more information on medical services and first aid. Click on any of the links below.

OSHA Resources

Medical Services and First Aid Standard [\(html\)](#)
Guidelines for First Aid Training Programs [\(html\)](#)
Medical and First Aid Website [\(html\)](#)

PMA Resources

Health, Safety and Environmental Answerline (800) 267-7550 (toll-free)
PMA Environmental Activities environmental@pmai.org
PMA Regulatory website PMAregs.org



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First Aid and Medical Services Checklist

Print a copy of this checklist and complete it at least once each year to verify compliance with OSHA's first aid and medical services standard.

Requirement or Activity	Yes	No	Don't Know
1. We rely on a nearby local clinic or hospital for our first aid assistance. (If the answer is <i>yes</i> , complete item #2. If the answer is <i>no</i> , skip to item #3.)			
2. This local medical services facility is close enough to be able to respond to a life-threatening injury at our imaging lab.			
3. We rely on trained employees to provide first aid. (If the answer is <i>yes</i> , complete items #4 and 5. If the answer is <i>no</i> , skip to item #6.)			
4. We have first aid supplies on-hand that are appropriate for our imaging lab.			
5. We have at least one emergency eyewash. All emergency eyewash units in our imaging lab meet the ANSI Z358.1-2004 standard.			
6. We have determined there is a risk of an employee contacting his/her body with corrosive chemicals and have, therefore, installed an emergency quick-drenching shower that meets the ANSI Z358.1-2004 standard.			
7. We have arrangements with a local medical facility to handle both our routine and emergency cases.			
8. We have made arrangements with a local ambulance service to handle our emergency situations.			

Signature of person who completed the checklist

Date

