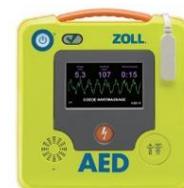


What do you understand about the provision of an AED in the workplace?

Many are not aware of the benefits of having an AED and the legal requirement to include 'the requirement for an AED', in their first aid risk assessment. Leaving some businesses at risk. An AED can save lives, the quicker one is used the better chance of survival. If a defibrillator is used and effective CPR is performed within 3-5 minutes of cardiac arrest, their chance of survival increases from 6% to 74%



If you have a public access AED within a reasonable distance of your business, then you can state that in your risk assessment of needs and possibly do not need to consider purchasing an AED. However, if you regularly have children on the premises then you may need to at least purchase some paediatric pads, compatible with the Public AED, (as few Public Access AED's will be suitable to use on young children.)



Below is a link to the HSE's Approved Code of Practice where it states -

'Automated external defibrillators (AEDs)

44 *Where an employer has identified through their needs assessment that they wish to provide an automated external defibrillator (AED) in the workplace, then the Provision and Use of Workplace Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) apply. For the purpose of complying with PUWER in these situations, the employer should provide information and written instructions, for example from the manufacturer of the AED, on how to use it. Fuller training, however, is likely to make the user more confident and is now an integral part of the syllabus for FAW and EFAW courses.'*

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l174.pdf>

Even those businesses with an AED do not always understand the necessity for recording ongoing checks of an AED, to prove their due diligence. To satisfy PUWER, a check sheet should be completed at least monthly, to prove the unit has been checked to ensure it is in full working order, i.e. pads in date, battery working and accessory kit present



I have attached a link to the Resuscitation Council (UK) document - **Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, automated defibrillators and the law** released in 2018. It's an in-depth document on where everyone stands on CPR and AED, its worth everyone reading this, especially business owners.

<https://www.resus.org.uk/cpr/cpr-aeds-and-the-law/>

Below are a couple of paragraphs taken from the document –

*'There is no UK legislation stipulating that AEDs must be provided in public areas, so not providing them could not result in a claim under statutory law. However, since their introduction, the use of AEDs by laypeople has been widely recommended in **international resuscitation guidelines**. This has given rise to the concern that failing to provide an AED might lead to a claim for negligence under common law if a member of the public were to suffer a cardiac arrest on the premises. Each organisation should therefore consider assessing the pros and cons of AED provision.'*

*'The cost of purchasing an AED and training staff to use it may be considerable. However, when looking at the cost, a lack of resources would not be considered a reasonable defence. Failing to adopt common practice can be strong evidence that appropriate precautions were not taken. When an AED is provided in a workplace and used by a member of staff, it becomes work equipment to which the **Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998** in England, Wales and Scotland (1999 in **Northern Ireland**) apply. Failure to maintain the equipment or to train your staff in its use would be a breach of the regulations by the employer.'*

Do not forget there is now the corporate manslaughter charge to consider as well !



FACTS -

It is hoped that when an AED is purchased that it will never need to be used. So yes, it can be an expensive piece of wall décor. However, we routinely purchase first aid kits, how often do most businesses use more than the plasters! We legally have to have fire extinguishers, how much does this cost?

In 2017/18, 334 people died in fires in the UK, (71 of those where in the Grenfell Disaster) sadly an increase of 71 deaths to the previous year.

60,000 people die each year in the UK from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) - 270 of those are children

So, some points to remember regarding the provision of an AED –

- ✓ A business must risk assess their need for an AED best practice record it for future reference.
- ✓ If you need an AED, research what unit would be best for your business – We believe an AED that is semi-automatic, with escalating joules and can give you some feedback as to how good your CPR is, is a better option. Also, if you regularly have children on site, you should consider the suitability of the unit to be easily used on a child.
- ✓ Decide on whether it will be beneficial to your business to make the unit available to the community, (this could result in some good publicity for your business as well as general satisfaction that your business is protecting the local community.)
- ✓ Ensure the unit is checked regularly and record those checks.
- ✓ Ensure **ALL** staff know where the unit is kept and train as many staff as possible in its safe use. Anyone can use an AED; they do not have to be a trained first aider.
- ✓ Remember all units work on the same basis, some will give you more help than others, i.e. tell you to push harder, faster etc. using a CPR reading device, that monitors how good the rescuers CPR is. A point to consider before purchasing an AED.
- ✓ Ensure your unit has an accessory kit and the contents have not exceeded their expiry date.



IF YOU NEED ANY ADVICE ON PURCHASING OR USE OF AN AED, NOT COVERED HERE –

You can contact us at MJ Training or Heart to Heart Norfolk.

Heart to Heart Norfolk was set up a number of years ago by Jayne Biggs after her daughter had a cardiac arrest at home. Fortunately, she survived and because of her experience Jayne set up her charity. Since setting it up she has help place over 150 public access defibrillators in the community, across the East of England. Jayne provides support and advice, along with community training sessions.

Heart 2 Heart Norfolk is our nominated charity. We also offer free AED training to all our clients who purchase an AED for there business or community, for more information get in touch.

CONTACT US AT MJ TRAINING

On 01502 560779 or email us on info@mjtrainme.co.uk

Or contact Jayne at Heart 2 Heart Norfolk - <https://www.facebook.com/Defibrillatorsforthelocalcommunity/>

