



Defibrillator Standards

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1. Introduction

Sudden cardiac arrest strikes without warning and kills approximately 100,000 people in Britain every year. It requires immediate treatment to keep blood pumping and to restart the heart to prevent brain damage and death. Survival rates drop 7-10% every minute without defibrillation and quick action can make a difference between life and death. Sadly, it is not uncommon for this sudden cardiac arrest to occur whilst a person is at work. Quick access to a defibrillator could give a person a chance of life and even if death still occurs there is comfort to those close to the deceased in knowing that everything possible was done. Therefore, although not a legal requirement the Persimmon Group has committed to ensure that a working Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is accessible at every Persimmon workplace, this includes sites and offices.

An AED is a portable life saving device that gives a casualty's heart an electric shock, when it has stopped beating normally in a sudden cardiac arrest. An AED works by checking the casualty's heart rhythm once the defibrillator pads are placed on their chest and giving them a shock if needed. AED's can be used on adults or children over one year old and by using an AED before an ambulance arrives it can significantly increase someone's chance of survival.

The purpose of this defibrillator standard is to give guidance on how the AED's should be purchased, managed and maintained. Also, the training requirements of any potential machine user.

2. Buying team responsibilities

It is the responsibility of each operating businesses buying team to ensure that each construction site and regional head office has an allocated AED. The machines are portable and once a construction site has finished the AED can be moved to a new site. A sales office does not require its own AED as the one located in site office can be accessed by the sales team if required.

Management of PLC and manufacturing operations also need to be make arrangements for an AED to be present at work locations under their control.

3. Locating the AED

Sites

The AED must be located in the site office and fixed to the wall with the supplied bracket, next to the first aid kit.

Offices

The AED must be located in the reception area and fixed to the wall with the supplied bracket.

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Manufacturing sites

The AED should be located in the most suitable area for the manufacturing site, as approved by the manufacturing HS&E Advisor.

All workers to be made aware of the location of the relevant AED during the induction process.

4. Management

Each operating business is responsible for managing the AEDs that they purchase. Construction secretaries must maintain a register to ensure that the location of each AED is known, recording the location and the serial number of the AED. Once a site has finished the AED must be returned by site management to the Construction Secretary for the business to re-allocate where appropriate.

Once installed the day to day responsibility for the AED:

- Construction sites – Site Manager;
- Offices – Office Manager;
- Manufacturing sites – person nominated by the Managing Director of the business.

5. Maintenance

The AED's that have been selected require very little maintenance and just require a momentary check of the machine (presence of a flashing green light) to make sure still functional. Site management to record this on the weekly site manager's checksheet and office management to check as part of the weekly fire alarm checks and records.

If the checks detect a possible issue with the machine then the supplier must be contacted for further advice.

If the AED is used then the battery and pads cassette must be replaced immediately, arrangements to be made through the buying team who will order a new battery and pads cassette. If the battery indicator is displaying low then the battery must be replaced.

The battery life is four years and the AED should be replaced every eight years.

6. Training and use

The AED is designed so that anyone can use it, with the machine talking through the steps required of the user and administering the shock.

Anyone that has attended a first aid course over the past five years will have been trained in its use. Designated first aiders will usually be the first responders to a potential cardiac arrest and responsible for using the AED, however they can be used by anyone who feels comfortable to use the machine if the designated first aider is not immediately available.

Employees can make themselves familiar with their use by clicking on this link and watching the video clip

<https://www.sja.org.uk/get-advice/first-aid-advice/how-to/how-to-use-a-defibrillator/>

AED awareness training is also provided through our nominated supplier.

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7. **Monitoring**

Site and office management monitors the AED via daily site checks. The Group HS&E Department monitors compliance with these standards via regular site and office HS&E inspections.

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