

G1 Sanitary Accommodation

COMMENTARY

Public areas

The law prescribes minimum standards for sanitary accommodation; however today's public, including people with disabilities, expect much higher standards when visiting entertainment premises. Modern and well-maintained toilets contribute significantly to the general ambience of the premises. If queuing and problems with overcrowding are to be avoided, designers planning new premises or converting existing buildings for entertainment use need to consider the following factors:

- the numbers of people that may be in the premises, both at capacity and the expected normal attendance
- the layout of the premises
- the distribution of the public throughout the premises
- the intended use of the premises (theatres, cinemas, bars and discos have differing demands)

Some premises present particular problems: for example theatres and concert halls place an immediate and heavy demand on sanitary accommodation during breaks in the performance. If only the minimum number of toilets be provided, lengthy queues may occur, particularly for the female accommodation, with consequent dissatisfaction amongst patrons. It is strongly recommended, therefore, that the minima be exceeded. An increased number of toilets with wider access at doorways will reduce patrons waiting time during intervals who may then have use of other facilities within the premises.

It might be possible to ease congestion problems by generally providing universal unisex toilets rather than just for mobility impaired accessible unisex toilets – see *Accommodation for people with impaired mobility* below. Generally however unisex toilets are unusual in the UK: it might not be welcome to patrons or be permissible where children may be present. Appropriate responsible persons, such as the police, should be consulted if proposing installing unisex toilets in general.

To keep queuing for lavatories to a reasonable level, to avoid overcrowding of ancillary sanitary accommodation and to minimise circulation problems within the premises, the designer needs information on:

- the likely numbers of persons attending
- the likely ratio of males to females

This will enable the designer to plan the distribution of the sanitary accommodation around the building so as to alleviate problems. It is important that, as well as providing sufficient accommodation, restricted access to the toilet blocks does not itself cause queuing – 'in' and 'out' doors are desirable. A separate area for applying make up will also ease congestion in female toilets.

Depending upon the type of customers expected in the premises, additional arrangements may be required to deter drug abuse or antisocial behaviour. The police may make specific requirements in this respect.

Babies

Babies are nowadays quite frequently brought into entertainment premises. Baby changing in public is inappropriate. Baby changing facilities assist in improved hygiene, discourage baby changing in inappropriate areas and stop embarrassment to other clients. Where space is severely limited it is appropriate to install the facility in a unisex accessible toilet.

Accommodation for people with impaired mobility

The law requires sanitary accommodation to be provided for the use of people with impaired mobility in all new buildings or conversions of existing buildings. There should be some accessible unisex toilets, which enable mobility-impaired people to be assisted by people of either sex.

Sanitary accommodation provided for the use of people with impaired mobility should be conveniently located near to the parts of the premises occupied by the users. Wherever possible, all sanitary accommodation should be grouped together. Segregation is more acute when accessible unisex toilets are not located near to the male and female toilets.

Wheelchair-accessible cubicles inside separate male and female toilets form useful additional accommodation but would not generally be sufficient on their own.

Designers should consider how to make all toilets more accessible to all disabled people. For example, visually-impaired people find facilities much more accessible where matt finishes on walls and contrasting urinals and fittings are provided. The dimensions of accessible toilets are critical; accessible toilets should meet the needs of all users, which may include people using crutches as well as wheelchair users, who may well have companions to provide assistance.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

- 1. The premises should be designed and constructed, maintained and managed so as to ensure the health and safety and welfare of all the occupants.**
- 3. The premises (new or existing) should be designed and constructed, maintained and managed to incorporate energy efficiency.**
- 22. Adequate and free sanitary accommodation should be provided.**

All of the *Technical Standards* are listed in Section A2. Section A3 has some details of definitions and explanations. Section A4 lists the publications referred to in *Technical Standards for places of entertainment* and their publishers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- G1.01 All sanitary fittings and drains must be constructed in accordance with the Building Regulations.
- G1.02 All sanitary accommodation should comply with *AD G Sanitation, hot water safety and water efficiency* and also *BS 6465-1* where applicable. *BS 6465 Parts 2 and 3* provide useful advice on the minimum floor areas and layouts of sanitary accommodation.
- G1.03 Toilets should have a permanent and safe supply of hot and cold (or warm) water, preferably from a running source. All washing facilities should have suitable means of cleaning and drying hands and faces.
- G1.04 All sanitary accommodation should be designed and constructed so as to be easily cleaned. Where necessary, a cleaner's sink or a draw-off tap over a trapped gully should be provided within or close to the sanitary accommodation.
- G1.05 The floors and floor-coverings to sanitary accommodation should be constructed of impervious material. All sanitary accommodation should be well ventilated and well lit (at least 200 lux measured at floor level is desirable).

- G1.06 Urinals should be fitted with automatic flushing apparatus. At least one urinal in each group of toilets should be fitted at lower than usual level to allow for shorter persons and/or children. Waterless urinals are acceptable where these can be shown to be effective.
- G1.07 At least one washbasin in each group of toilets should be fitted at lower than usual level to allow for shorter persons and/or children.
- G1.08 Female toilets should be provided with facilities for the disposal of sanitary dressings. These may be bins, incinerators or macerator units.
- G1.09 Ideally all fittings in toilets should be flush, with concealed pipes and cisterns with services accessed from outside.
- G1.10 Ideally all toilets should be provided with mirrors, preferably not over washbasins, and wide shelves under the mirrors to receive handbags and other possessions, where possible positioned so as not to obstruct access to the lavatories.
- G1.11 Tables 23 – 27 set out the recommended minimum sanitary accommodation in premises licensed for regulated entertainment. In some cases the Tables differ from the provisions of *BS 6465-1* where this is considered as more appropriate, being based upon experience in places of public entertainment.
- G1.12 Separate toilets for each sex should be provided unless otherwise agreed with the appropriate responsible person.
- Note: Unisex water closets should be in self-contained cubicles with full-height walls and doors.
- G1.13 When assessing the toilet facilities required, it should be assumed, in the absence of a more reliable estimate, that the public will be 50% male and 50% female. In the case of theatres and concert halls the ratio is more likely to be 60% female and 40% male.
- G1.14 In multi-screen cinemas the level of provision should be based upon 75% of the total permitted capacity (excluding foyers) with the assumption of equal numbers of male and female.
- Note: Experience shows that many multiplex cinemas may on occasion show the same 'block-buster' film on more than one screen almost simultaneously; therefore the provision for multi-screen cinemas should generally be based upon the total seating capacity of the premises rather than upon the largest individual auditorium. However it is reasonable to exclude public waiting in the foyer from the calculation.
- G1.15 The locations of toilets within the building should relate to the distribution of the audience within the premises. Toilets should preferably be located on each floor to which the public have access and generally at no greater distance in level than one storey.
- G1.16 Wherever possible toilets should be sited off entrance halls or foyers.
- G1.17 In order to avoid congestion, and consequent delays, entrances to toilets should be located so as to be easily identifiable and clearly signed – see Recommendation J2.41. Entrances and exits should be sufficiently wide to enable two people to pass by each other; doors should have a minimum width of 1100mm. A width of 1200mm will ease circulation. Separate entrance and exit doors should be provided where practicable.
- G1.18 Privacy should be provided for all users of toilets including washroom areas; this necessitates careful planning of entrances and exits or by the installation of screens in appropriate positions. Mirrors should be positioned so that privacy is maintained. Care is necessary to ensure that urinals cannot be seen from outside the toilet from the entranceway or when the entry/exit door(s) are open. Where windows may be overlooked they should be obscured, for example by frosted glass. Partitions and doors should be least 2m high; however in some premises the police may require that full-height doors to cubicles are not installed in the interests of security.

- G1.19 Consider whether putting up a regular rota so that customers are aware that there are regular checks in toilets.
- G1.20 It is important that WC cisterns are arranged to refill quickly, especially in female toilets in premises such as theatres and concert halls, if delays are to be obviated.
- G1.21 Cubicle doors should be provided with simple safety latches which can be easily opened from outside by staff for access in case of emergency. All inward-opening cubicle doors should fall open when unoccupied. Where cubicle doors open inwards they should be at least 200mm clear of the floor which will allow access if an occupant were to collapse in the cubicle. There should be a hook high up on the back of each door.
- G1.22 Both visual and aural alarm evacuation signals should be provided in all toilets. See Recommendation H1.61.
- G1.23 In premises where inappropriate or antisocial behaviour might occur, CCTV with recording capability may be necessary. If reliance is to be placed upon attendants these should be changed frequently to avoid over-familiarity occurring. See also F6.24 to F6.28.
- Note: Such attendants should be provided with suitable means, such as a two-way radio, for contacting management or security staff in case of an emergency
- G1.24 In premises where drug abuse might occur, shelves, flat cistern tops and other flat surfaces such as boxed-in facilities and services should be avoided in WC cubicles. Toilet seats should not be provided. Where flat surfaces are unavoidable they should be roughened, for example by the use of appropriate anti-poster/graffiti paint. Suspended ceilings should be avoided. Partition walls and doors should be at least 200mm clear of the floor. Illumination should be by blue lights.
- Note: Installing cisterns so that they do not obstruct within the WC cubicle will also assist in ease of cleaning.

Babies

- G1.25. Where baby changing facilities are provided, they should be accessible to disabled people.
- G1.26 Where the baby changing facilities are in a dedicated baby changing room, the room and facilities should be in accordance with the recommendations in *BS 8300*.
- G1.27 Baby changing facilities should be clearly indicated by signs.
- G1.28 In smaller premises where the space is limited, a wall-mounted vertically or horizontally folding baby-changing-table may be provided in a unisex wheelchair accessible toilet so long as
- a) the clear area of the toilet cubicle is maintained at least 1500mm x 2200mm, when the table is folded up;
 - b) the wall mounted vertically or horizontally folding baby changing table is fixed 750mm above the floor level or is adjustable in height;
 - c) there is a conspicuous sign fixed above the folding baby changing table worded: **Fold up baby changing table after use;**
 - d) there is a sanitary disposal bin which should not be placed in the wheelchair turning space or the transfer location adjacent to the water closet pan;
 - e) there is no chair or other facility that might encourage the toilet to be used for feeding babies.

Staff and performers

- G1.29 It is desirable to provide separate toilets specifically for the use of staff and performers. This is not always necessary in smaller premises.
- G1.30 The minimum sanitary accommodation provided for the use of staff or performers should comply with *Workplace health, safety and welfare. Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992* and *Approved Code of practice*. However increased provision is desirable, as described in Table 25.

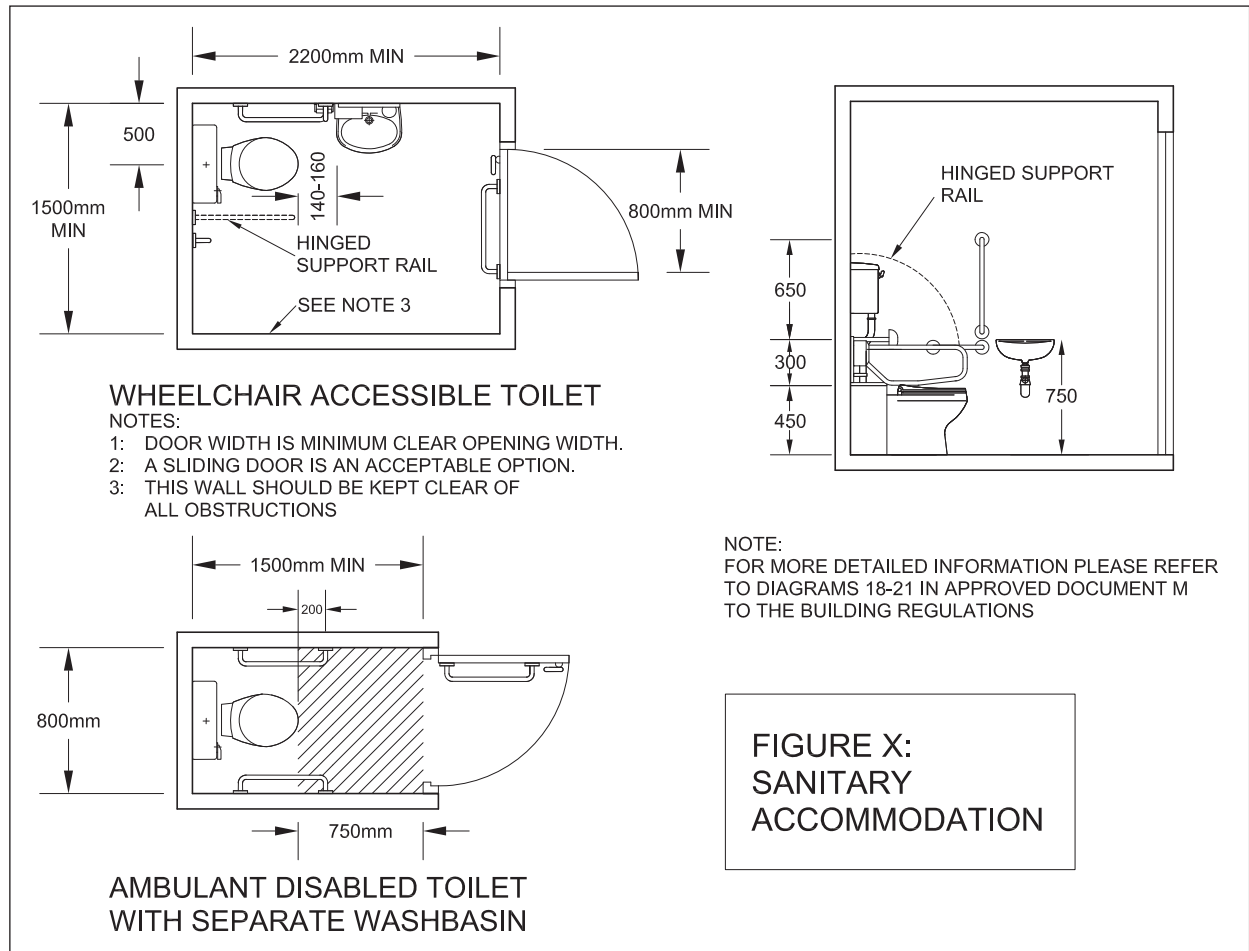
- G1.31 As far as reasonably possible toilets should be located close to work sites so that staff and performers do not have to travel an undue distance to reach the facility.
- G1.32 Where staff or performers share toilets with the public it may be necessary to increase the total accommodation so that workers can use the facilities without undue delay.
- G1.33 Separate toilets for each sex should be provided unless each toilet is in a separate room capable of being secured from the inside.
- G1.34 Washing facilities should be provided in the vicinity of lavatories and changing rooms, regardless of where else they are situated and be readily accessible. Permanent arrangements should be made for the supply of clean hot and cold, or warm, water preferably from a running source, which should be installed so as not to cause a safety or fire hazard. All washing facilities should have a supply of soap and towels, or other suitable means of cleaning and drying hands and faces.
- G1.35 Separate male and female washing facilities should be provided unless the facilities are in a room that can be secured from the inside and not intended for use by more than one person at a time. Washing facilities need not be separate where only for washing hands, forearms and faces.
- G1.36 Showers or baths should be provided if required by the nature of the work or for health reasons. Showers for staff and performers should be provided in theatres and are desirable in concert halls and multi-function premises. Showers should be located near toilets.

People with impaired mobility

- G1.37 All toilets should be designed to be readily accessible to all users as far as practicable.
- G1.38 Sanitary accommodation for use by mobility-impaired people should be provided on all floors of the premises to which mobility-impaired people have access and should be located so as to be easily accessible to the intended users. Corridors leading to such accommodation should have a minimum width of 1800mm. Disabled people should not have to travel more than 40m on same floor unless the route is completely unobstructed or more than 40m combined horizontal travel when access is on a different floor.
- G1.39 Sanitary accommodation provided for people with impaired mobility should comply with *AD M Access to and use of buildings*. *BS 8300* provides further guidance including the positioning of the sanitary ware and handrails.
- G1.40 Wheelchair users should have easy access to a wheelchair-accessible unisex toilet. Unisex toilets allow one or more carers of either sex to assist where necessary. The recommended minimum floor dimensions for the compartment are 2200mm x 1500mm. It is important that the users are able to wash their hands before transferring back to their wheelchairs. See Figure X.
- G1.41 Each group of separate-sex toilets should include at least one ambulant disabled WC. This should have a minimum width of 800mm with at least 750mm clear between the pan and the door frame with an outward opening door. A horizontal and a vertical handrail should be fitted to one side wall, similarly arranged as in a unisex toilet, with a higher than average pan (top of seat 680mm from floor) to assist those who have difficulty in rising. See Figure X.
- G1.42 Ambulant disabled persons WCs are an improvement on standard WC compartments for many elderly people and for the larger-than-average person. Larger cubicles, 1200mm wide or more, and preferably with outward opening doors, are helpful for people who need extra space as when dealing with children.
- G1.43 Doors should open outwards but care is necessary to ensure that open doors do not obstruct escape routes.
- G1.44 Accessible toilets for either sex should be provided with sanitary disposal units for safe disposal of soiled continence aids.

G1.45 A pull cord call point should be installed within each toilet compartment provided for the use of mobility-impaired people so that the user can summon assistance in case of difficulty. The call point should activate a distinctive light and/or sound unit in a permanently staffed position. It is desirable that an acknowledgment or communication system be provided – see H1.63 and H1.64.

G1.46 Appropriate signs should be provided – see Recommendation J2.39 to J2.40.



Tables

G1.47 The following tables provide specific advice:

- Table 23 Minimum toilet accommodation with unisex water closets;
- Table 24 Recommended minimum sanitary accommodation for cinemas, theatres, concert halls and similar buildings where performances are usually non-continuous with interval(s) during the performance;
- Table 24A Recommended minimum sanitary accommodation for cinemas and similar venues with continuous performances;
- Table 25 Recommended minimum sanitary accommodation for premises licensed for regulated entertainment such as public houses, restaurants, discos and bars;
- Table 25A Recommended minimum sanitary accommodation for small premises subject to conditions;
- Table 26 Recommended minimum sanitary accommodation for mixed staff (in accordance with BS 6465-1);
- Table 27 Recommended minimum sanitary accommodation for mobility-impaired people in entertainment premises.

Table 23 Minimum toilet accommodation with unisex water closets			
	Disposal units for sanitary dressings	Water Closets	Wash hand basins
Unisex	1 in every toilet	2 for up to 25 people; 3 for up to 50 people plus 1 for every additional 35 people thereafter	1 per WC
Cleaner's sink	At least one bucket/cleaner's sink per block of toilets		
Note: It may be sensible to provide additional urinals for men.			

Table 24. Recommended minimum sanitary accommodation for cinemas, theatres, concert halls and similar buildings where performances are usually non-continuous with interval(s) during the performance			
MALE	Urinals	Water Closets	Washbasins
	2 for up to 50 males plus 1 for every additional 50 males or part thereof	2 for up to 250 males plus 1 for every additional 250 males or part thereof	1 per WC and in addition 1 per 5 urinals or part thereof
FEMALE	Disposal units for sanitary dressings	Water Closets	Washbasins
	1 in every toilet	2 for up to 25 females, plus 1 for every additional 25 females or part thereof	1, plus 1 per 2 WCs or part thereof
Cleaner's sink	At least one bucket/cleaner's sink per block of toilets		
<p>Note 1 Unless there is a more reliable estimate available, a ratio of 60% female to 40% male should be assumed (50% to 50% in cinemas).</p> <p>Note 2 Capacity for multi-screen cinemas may be assessed at 75% of the total permitted capacity, excluding foyers.</p>			

Table 24A. Recommended minimum sanitary accommodation for cinemas and similar venues with continuous performances			
MALE	Urinals	Water Closets	Washbasins
	2 for up to 100 males plus 1 for every additional 80 males or part thereof	2 for up to 250 males plus 1 for every additional 500 males or part thereof	1 per WC and in addition 1 per 5 urinals or part thereof
FEMALE	Disposal units for sanitary dressings	Water Closets	Washbasins
	1 in every toilet	2 for up to 40 females 3 for up to 70 females 4 for up to 100 females plus 1 for every additional 40 females or part thereof	1, plus 1 per 2 WCs or part thereof
Cleaner's sink	At least one bucket/cleaner's sink per block of toilets		
<p>Note: Unless there is a more reliable estimate available, a ratio of 50% male to 50% female should be assumed and capacity may be assessed at 75% of the total possible capacity.</p>			

Table 25. Recommended minimum sanitary accommodation for premises licensed for regulated entertainment such as public houses, restaurants, discos and bars			
MALE	Urinals	Water Closets	Washbasins
	1 per 50 males or part thereof	2 for up to 150 males; plus 1 for every additional 200 males or part thereof	1 per WC and, in addition, 1 per 5 urinals or part thereof
FEMALE	Disposal units for sanitary dressings	Water Closets	Washbasins
	1 in every toilet	2 for up to 25 females; plus 1 for every additional 25 or part thereof up to 200 females; plus 1 for every additional 35 females thereafter	1 per WC
Cleaner's sink	At least one bucket/cleaner's sink per block of toilets		
Note: Unless there is a more reliable estimate available, a ratio of 50% male to 50% female should be assumed.			

Table 25A. Recommended minimum sanitary accommodation for small premises subject to conditions			
Where existing small premises, which have not previously held an entertainment licence, are to be converted for use for regulated entertainment with accommodation of up to about 200 people (and not exceeding 220 people), the following minimum requirements may be acceptable.			
Not exceeding 50 people			
	Urinals/Disposal units for sanitary dressings	Water Closets	Washbasins
MALE	--	1	1
FEMALE	1	1	1
Not exceeding 150 people			
	Urinals/Disposal units for sanitary dressings	Water Closets	Washbasins
MALE	1	1	2
FEMALE	2	2	2
Not exceeding 220 people			
	Urinals/Disposal units for sanitary dressings	Water Closets	Washbasins
MALE	2	1	2
FEMALE	3	3	2
Note 1 Unless there is a more reliable estimate available, a ratio of 50% male and 50% female should be assumed.			
Note 2 A minimum of 2 WCs is desirable to allow for maintenance.			

Table 26. Recommended minimum sanitary accommodation for mixed staff (in accordance with BS 6465-1)			
Toilets for female staff and male staff where urinals are not provided			
No. of persons at work	No. of Water Closets	No. of washbasins	
1 to 5	1	1	
6 to 15	2	2	
16 to 30	3	3	
31 to 45	4	4	
46 to 60	5	5	
61 to 75	6	6	
76 to 90	7	7	
91 to 100	8	8	
Above 100	1 additional WC and 1 additional washbasin for every additional unit or fraction of a unit of 25 persons		
Cleaner's Sink	At least 1 per floor, preferably in or adjacent to a toilet		
Disposal units for sanitary dressings		1 in every toilet regularly used by females	
Alternative provision of sanitary appliances for use of male staff only			
No. of males at work	No. of Water Closets	No. of urinals	No. of washbasins
1 to 15	1	1	1
16 to 30	2	1	2
31 to 45	2	2	2
46 to 60	3	2	3
61 to 75	3	3	3
76 to 90	4	3	4
91 to 100	4	4	4
Above 100	1 additional WC, urinal and washbasin for every additional unit or fraction of a unit of 50 males		
Where the usual work of the premises may result in the heavy soiling of hands and forearms, additional washing stations should be provided:		1 additional washing station per 10 people at work (or fraction of 10) up to 50 people; thereafter 1 additional washing station for every further 20 people (or fraction of 20)	
Note 1 The number of people at work shown in the first column refers to the maximum number likely to be in the premises at any one time. Where separate toilets are provided for a group of workers, for example men or women, performers or bar staff, separate calculations should be made for each group.			
Note 2 A minimum of 2 WCs is desirable to allow for maintenance.			

Table 27. Recommended minimum sanitary accommodation for mobility-impaired people in entertainment premises	
New premises	
Type	Provision
Wheelchair-accessible unisex toilets	a) One close to the main entrance; and b) One in each location where separate-sex toilets are provided
Ambulant-accessible single-sex WCs	One in each location where separate-sex toilets are provided
Ambulant-accessible single-sex WCs with cubicles at least 1200mm wide	One in each location where there are 4 or more WC cubicles (excluding unisex facilities)
Note: Wheelchair-accessible unisex toilets should be additional to the accommodation provided under Tables 23, 23A, 24 and 25	
Existing premises, where space limitations constrain provision of wheelchair-accessible unisex toilets	
Type	Provision
Ambulant-accessible single-sex WCs, preferably 1200mm wide	One in each location where single-sex toilets are provided.
A washbasin and unit(s) for the safe disposal of sanitary dressings and for soiled continence aids should be provided in each toilet and WC	