

Chapter 18: Sanitation

KEY POINTS:

- **Event organisers must provide suitable and sufficient sanitary and welfare facilities for workers at an event**
- **Responsible organisers will provide appropriate sanitary and welfare facilities for the audience**
- **Provision of welfare facilities for the audience has positive benefits in controlling health risks and contributing to audience wellbeing and behaviour**
- **Licensing legislation enforced by Local Authorities may require provision of sanitary and welfare facilities for those attending**

18.1 As part of event planning, organisers will need to consider welfare and sanitary provision for workers. In terms of protecting public health, organisers will also have to think about welfare and sanitary provision for those expected to attend the event.

Legislation

18.2 *The Workplace (Health, Safety, and Welfare) Regulations 1992* require that suitable and sufficient toilets and welfare facilities must be provided at workplaces.

18.3 It is likely that separate facilities will have to be provided for food handlers (catering staff) under public entertainment licensing. For further information, see Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs.

18.4 There is no direct legal requirement under the *Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974* (HSWA) to provide toilets and wash facilities for non-

employees. Similarly, health and safety law does not prescribe numbers and types of toilets and wash facilities for use by an audience. However, supply of adequate toilet and washing facilities is important in the prevention of health risks. Lack of sufficient provision may also result in crowd disorder.

18.5 The *Disability Discrimination Act 2005* will apply with regard to sanitary accommodation for people with special needs.

18.6 The provision of a healthy drinking-water supply for the audience is primarily governed by legislation enforced by the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI). Refer to the DWI for further guidance.

18.7 In all circumstances, the scale of welfare facilities required will depend on the nature of the event, worker and audience profile, and the type of venue.

Welfare for workers

18.8 Guidance on welfare facilities for workers, including the number and type of toilets and wash facilities, is in the accompanying code of practice to the *Workplace (Health, Safety, and Welfare) Regulations 1992*. Further guidance on the provision of welfare facilities during construction work is in the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) *Construction Information Sheet 59* and BS 6465-1:2006.

Welfare for the audience

18.9 Consider the number and type of toilets and washing facilities as part of a risk assessment. Key factors to take into account include:

- audience size and demographics, e.g. provision of suitable facilities for children, elderly or infirm people attending, who may take longer to use a facility
- duration of the event

- location of the event and type of venue, e.g. a stadium or greenfield site.
- type of facilities available, e.g. cubicles or urinals
- frequency of emptying temporary toilets
- access to mains services – temporary or otherwise
- perceived audience food and fluid consumption
- requirements during intervals and breaks in performance when use may peak
- requirements for campsites
- weather conditions and temperature
- plus any other factors relevant to the event.

18.10 Ground conditions must be considered for allowing vehicle access to both public and worker's sanitation points. By nature, tanker lorries are large and very heavy when full, but are imperative where facilities are not connected to mains water or drainage.

18.11 By examining the factors above, it should be possible to determine what level of facilities will be required to reduce the likelihood of excessive queuing. Rapid and constant use of facilities can lead to overcrowding, possible disorder and unhealthy conditions.

Temporary toilets

18.12 There are a number of different types of temporary toilets available for hire, from cubicles to urinals. The risk assessment should help to identify the type of temporary toilets suitable for the event.

18.13 Consider the perceived peak usage of any toilet units and the time taken for cisterns to fill. Rapid and constant use of any toilet can cause the bowls to become unsanitary and prone to blockages.

18.14 Temporary mains units can be used if a sewer, drain, septic tank, or cesspool is available, provided an adequate water supply and sufficient

water pressure are available. Recirculating self-contained units are not reliant on the availability of drains or water services.

18.15 Single self-contained portable units are versatile but are limited to a maximum number of uses before requiring servicing/emptying. Trenches and latrines may be appropriate for some events. Advice should be sought from the Environment Agency, or Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, and Local Authority regarding the suitability of trenches and latrines for each event, and for any local guidelines ensuring safe and hygienic use.

18.16 Wherever non-mains units are used, provision for safe and hygienic waste removal should be arranged with holding-tank facilities, if required.

NB: See *The Purple Guide's* chapter on Waste Management for further details.

Number of temporary toilets for the audience

18.17 Organisers need to know the audience size and likely male to female ratio when determining the number of toilets required for an event. When there is insufficient information to assess this ratio, a split of male to female 50:50 should be assumed.

18.18 With regards to numbers, event organisers have used the information shown in **Table 1** to inform their decision-making process. However, an event-specific risk assessment will determine whether additional or a different balance of facilities is required.

18.19 Events where campsites are provided have differing requirements on ratios of urinals and WCs. **Table 1** takes this into account.

18.20 A number of events are now using urinals for both males and females. Female urinals can increase throughput and reduce queuing at temporary toilets but have not yet gained widespread public approval.

Organisers may wish to consider these where the age and profile of the audience makes it appropriate to include them. However, care should be taken to ensure that there are an adequate number of traditional female WCs to cover those who do not find these systems acceptable.

	Female Toilets	Male Toilets
For events with a gate time of less than 6-hours duration opening	1 per 100	1 per 500, plus 1 urinal per 150
For events with a gate opening time of 6 hours or more, but with little or no alcohol or food served	1 per 85	1 per 425, plus 1 urinal per 125
For events with a gate opening time of 6 hours or more, with alcohol and food served in quantity	1 per 75	1 per 400, plus 1 urinal per 100
For campsites at major events, swapping the emphasis from urinal to WCs for males	1 per 75	1 per 150, plus 1 urinal per 250

Table 1: Guide to provision of toilet facilities

18.21 Further guidance on sanitary installations can be found in *BS6465-1:2006 Sanitary installations. Code of practice for the design of sanitary facilities and scales of provision of sanitary and associated appliances.*

Wash facilities for the audience

18.22 Hand wash basins can cause similar or even greater queuing than for WC's, especially for female toilets. Where possible, provide hand-washing facilities in the ratio of one hand wash basin per two toilets for females, one hand wash per four toilets for males, applicable in installations of mains connected toilet facilities. However for single plastic toilet installations then hand-washing facilities should be provided normally in the ratio of one hand wash basin per five facilities (WC's & Urinals) with not less than one hand-washing facility per ten toilets provided.

18.23 Preference should always be given to providing warm-water hand-washing facilities and adequate supplies of suitable soap. This is the most effective means for cleaning hands. Antiseptic hand wipes or bactericidal soap/gel can be provided, however organisers should be aware that these wipes are only effective when hands are not visibly contaminated (for example, by mud).

18.24 Hand-washing facilities alone will not provide adequate provision for events longer than one day, or when overnight camping is available. In these instances, consider whether it is appropriate to supply shower facilities on site, subject to the availability of an adequate supply of fresh water supply and sufficient water pressure.

Location of toilets and wash facilities

18.25 Sanitary accommodation for use by event workers should be located near to the work areas and, in particular, behind the stage, near the mixer tower, next to the catering areas and car parks, adjacent to the first-aid areas, and to welfare and children's areas.

18.26 Where possible, locate toilets for the audience at different points around the venue rather than concentrating in one small area, to minimise queuing, which could lead to overcrowding problems. However, also consider ease of access for janitorial and waste-removal personnel and vehicles, which are essential to maintaining sanitary and hygienic facilities.

18.27 On sites where hand-washing facilities are supplied in the open air, consider the management of the facility to ensure that the surrounding ground does not become waterlogged, leading to localised flooding and the risk of slipping.

18.28 For those queuing to enter the event, consider placing toilets outside the perimeter of the venue (e.g. car parks, box-office queuing areas, event campsites, etc). Where necessary, consider access requirements for servicing and emptying. This may include the need for temporary roadways and dedicated access routes, subject to the layout of the site.

Installation and maintenance of toilet and wash facilities

18.29 Event organisers should ensure that they and/or their contractors have assessed any risk to workers. Consider workplace transport, lifting operations and manual-handling risks when moving temporary units.

18.30 Contractors and others involved in working with sanitary facilities should carry out an assessment of the risks to the health of their employees and others from exposure to hazardous chemicals and sewage under the *Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002*. Assessments should be made available to employees and should identify the measures in place to prevent, or where this is not reasonably practicable, control these risks. Control measures may include:

- substitution with safer products
- properly selected and maintained equipment

- safe methods of work
- provision of protective equipment
- training
- suitable information and warnings

NB: For health hazards posed by effluent during servicing and emptying of facilities, see *The Purple Guide's* chapter on Waste Management.