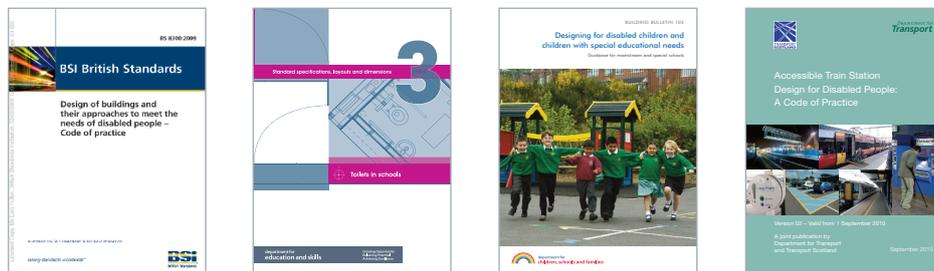


Accessible toilets, bathrooms and washrooms

The provisions beyond
Building Regulation Approved Document M
explained



- BS8300:2009 Code of practice for the design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people
- BS6465-4 Code of practice for the provision of public toilets
- Building Bulletin 102 designing for disabled children and children with special educational needs
- Accessible train station design code of practice
- Department of Health: Health Building Note 00-02 Sanitary Spaces



Introduction

- On average, we visit the toilet eight times a day
- One in six of the UK population – over 10million people – has a limiting illness that impinges on their ability to carry out daily life
- Some 20million are affected by bladder and bowel continence
- There are over 1.5million wheelchair users
- Over 13million people are obese, which makes reaching parts of their body difficult, and which can lead to diabetes that in turn leads to increased urination

Research shows that potentially up to 14million* people cannot use a conventional (Document M) wheelchair-accessible toilet because they need more space, the support of up to two carers, a changing bench, and/or hoist. Provided in addition to a conventional wheelchair-accessible (Document M) toilet, these facilities are known as Changing Places. Where included as an 'add-on' to a unisex wheelchair assisted toilet, it is a Space to Change facility.

The continuing drive for an inclusive society has seen a raft of changes to 'good practice' in making facilities accessible.

EQUALITY ACT

Under the Act, which replaces the Disability Discrimination Act, service providers are required to make reasonable changes – including to the built environment – where a disabled customer or potential customer would otherwise be at a substantial disadvantage; previously, such changes were only required if it would have been impossible or unreasonably difficult for the person to access or use the service. It extends classification of disability to include incontinence.

BS8300:2009

The Code of Practice affects any new build or refurbishment project of a building to which numbers of the public have access – from hotels and tourist attractions to civic facilities.

Under BS8300:2009, new build multi-occupancy buildings (hotels, care homes, student accommodation etc) are recommended to provide a minimum 5% of bedrooms designed accessible without a fixed track hoist system, 5% with a fixed track hoist system or similar giving the same degree of convenience and safety, with a further 5% being capable of future adaptation, and always have either adjacent or en-suite sanitary facilities which include a WC.

Tourism for All is campaigning for proprietors to go beyond the basic legislative requirement – a Document M package and wheel-in shower – and realise how enhanced facilities, such as including a height-adjustable basin or a 'wash and dry' toilet, would enable them to maximise revenue potential from the disabled sector: a 'wash and dry' toilet incorporates integral douching and drying, eliminating the need for the user, or their carer, to manually cleanse, thus improving hygiene, dignity and privacy.

A well-designed accessible sanitary facility/bathroom takes into account a level access for smooth movement into the space, sufficient area within for the user and a wheelchair and/or carer, and a layout to enable transfer from a wheelchair to the toilet, by a hoist and/or positioning the toilet away from the wall (peninsular). A wetroom ensures all personal hygiene can be undertaken as easily as possible. Use of colour further assists people with visual impairment.

BS8300:2009 also includes Changing Places toilets, which should as good practice be installed in any building to which numbers of the public have access-libraries, tourist attractions, leisure centres, transport hubs, shopping centres etc.

BS6465-4

BS6465-4 Code of Practice for Provision of Public Toilets came into force in 2010, and states *“when considering innovative approaches to toilet provision, issues of... equality, accessibility, social inclusion and sustainability should be taken into account.”* It extends the scope for disabled people, emphasizing that ‘with the increased mobility of disabled people and the growing number of older people, public toilet blocks should contain accessible provision...in heavy use areas, an additional Changing Places toilet should be provided’.

It also says existing toilets should not be closed just because they do not include facilities for disabled people, as by law (Equality Act 2010) ‘reasonable adjustments’ must be carried out to make facilities accessible for disabled people, and extends classification of disability to include incontinence. Replacement of a conventional WC with a ‘wash and dry’ toilet is a cost-effective solution to ensuring ‘best value’ and meeting all recommendations, as it meets the disability requirements and the added of Islamic hygiene practice.

BUILDING BULLETIN 102

Research by the Bog Standard campaign reveals that almost half of the schools surveyed have no disabled toilets despite one in five pupils in mainstream education being special needs.

The Department for Education BBI02 guidance states accessible personal care facilities must be provided at convenient intervals round the school, and that toilet and changing facilities in mainstream schools should include fittings including a peninsular toilet, height adjustable basin and height adjustable changing table.

It further outlines requirements for hygiene rooms – a convenient solution to meeting the needs of pupils in wheelchairs. Such areas should have space for at least the student and one or two adult support workers, a hoist, mobile height adjustable trolley for showering and/or changing, and a washbasin.

ACCESSIBLE TRAIN STATION DESIGN CODE OF PRACTICE

The latest Code of Practice came into force in November 2011. It pulls together all current guidance on the provision and location of wheelchair accessible toilets and includes that:

- disabled people should be able to find and use suitable toilet accommodation no less easily than non-disabled people
- toilets must be designed so they can be used independently
- where there is only one accessible WC it should be of unisex design suitable for wheelchair users and ambulant disabled people
- as well as being accessible to people in wheelchairs, it must be easy to use by other people including those who cannot bend, with limited strength, impaired balance, impaired vision and those who make involuntary movements
- where new toilets are being built, toilets for disabled people must be provided
- a Changing Places toilet should be provided in all large railway stations, and should be in addition to, not instead of the provision of unisex accessible WCs

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: HEALTH BUILDING NOTE 00-02 SANITARY SPACES 2013/ WELSH HEALTH BUILDING NOTE 00-02 (SCOTLAND REFERS TO DoH NOTE)

The Health Building Note gives 'best practice' guidelines for healthcare buildings. Its latest edition now includes Changing Places as a provision in healthcare buildings.

Further, where provided, they should be in public areas for ease of access to everyone who needs to use them, with comprehensive guidance to the design and equipment

* potential users of a toilet with bench and hoist include:

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| - 1.5m wheelchair users | - 8,500 people with multiple sclerosis |
| - 6.5 million people who have either bladder or bowel incontinence | - 5000 people with motor neurone disease |
| - 1.5million people with a learning disability | - 8,000 people with spina bifida |
| - 1.2million people living with stroke | - 120,000 people with a stoma |
| - 62,000 amputees | - 3.8million adults morbidly obese |
| - 30,000 people with cerebral palsy | - 8.7million people with osteoarthritis |
| - 13,000 people with acquired brain injuries | - 400,000 people with rheumatoid arthritis |



Clos-o-Mat is the UK's biggest manufacturer and supplier of disabled toileting solutions. Its range of equipment, from grab rails to 'wash and dry' toilets, hoists and toilet lifters enable specifiers to meet all their needs from one source which has the 'behind the scenes' expertise to advise, design, supply, install and maintain accessible toilet and washroom facilities beyond Document M. The offering extends across domestic and all 'away from home' toilet scenarios, including Changing Places, Hygiene Rooms and Space to Change toilets.

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Building 1 • Brooklands Place • Brooklands Road • Sale • Cheshire • M33 6RN • Fax: 0161 973 2711

Tel: 0800 374 076 Email: info@clos-o-mat.com www.clos-o-mat.com