

# Requirements for Construction Site Welfare Facilities



 **CONSTRUCTION  
SAFETY  
PARTNERSHIP  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



The Construction Safety Partnership and the HSA Construction Advisory Committee combined in 2016 to become the Construction Safety Partnership Advisory Committee.

The aim of this new structure is to further focus and increase action on safety and health in the construction sector.

This following guidance has been updated in order to comply with current legislation in particular the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 Part 14 *Construction Site Welfare Facilities*.

# Personal Protective Equipment

Every construction worker shall be provided with appropriate PPE where there are risks to their safety and health. Ensure the best type of PPE is chosen by considering all the risks involved. It is essential that an employee using PPE is consulted and involved in the selection process.

It is the duty of employers to assess the hazards on site in order to identify and provide the correct type of PPE to their employees where risks cannot be otherwise eliminated or adequately controlled. Employers must choose PPE products which are CE marked and suitable to the user. They must ensure employees have received appropriate instruction and training on their use and where more than one item of PPE is worn at the same time they must be designed to fit together properly. The employer must also ensure that all PPE is properly maintained and appropriate storage facilities are provided.

No charge may be made to a construction worker for the provision of PPE which is used at work. Contractors and sole traders are responsible for providing their own PPE.

The assessment of the PPE selected must be periodically reviewed. Replacement PPE must be provided by the employer where the assessment reveals this is necessary.

There is a duty on employees having received the appropriate training and instruction to make correct use of the PPE provided and to report any defects in the PPE immediately. Employees should inform their employer of any medical conditions they have that might be affected by the use of the PPE.



# Shelter and Accommodation

A contractor responsible for a construction site shall provide at or in the immediate vicinity of the site:

- adequate and suitable enclosed accommodation for taking shelter during interruptions of work owing to bad weather and for storing clothing not worn during working hours to include:
  - where there are more than 5 persons at work on a site, adequate and suitable means for them to warm themselves and for drying wet clothing;
  - where there are 5 persons or less at work on a site such arrangements as are practicable for them to warm themselves and for drying wet clothing; and
  - adequate and suitable accommodation for the deposit of protective clothing used for work and kept, when not in use, at or in the immediate vicinity, with practical arrangements in place for drying the clothing if it becomes wet.
- adequate and suitable accommodation with sufficient tables with impermeable surfaces and seats with backs, for taking meals in satisfactory conditions;
- facilities for boiling water and, where appropriate, facilities for preparing their meals in satisfactory conditions. Where there are more than 5 persons at work on a site and heated food is not otherwise available, adequate facilities for heating food must be available. Ensure an adequate supply of drinkable water and, where appropriate, another suitable non-alcoholic beverage be provided (at a convenient location); and
- shelter and accommodation provided shall be properly ventilated, adequately lighted, kept in a clean, hygienic and orderly condition and shall not be used for the deposit or storage of materials and plant.

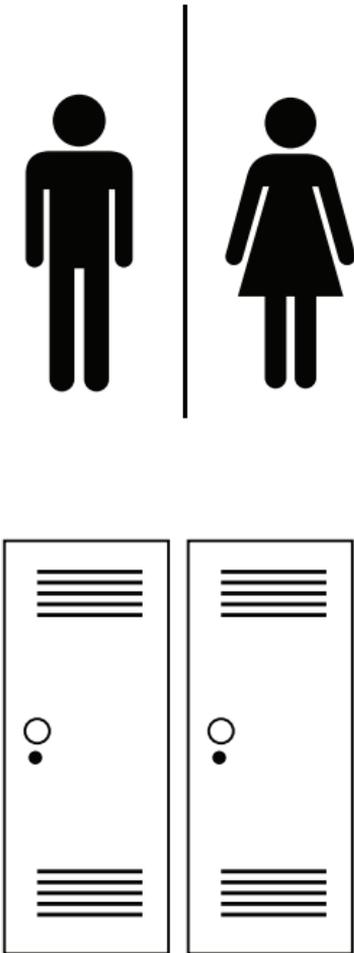
# Changing Rooms and Lockers

A contractor responsible for a construction site shall ensure that appropriate changing rooms are provided for persons at work if they have to wear special work clothes and if for health or other appropriate reasons they cannot be expected to change in another area.

The changing rooms should be easily accessible, of sufficient capacity and provided with seating.

If work clothes are likely to be contaminated by dangerous substances, atmospheric conditions or other conditions the relevant contractor shall provide facilities to enable working clothes are kept in a place separate from personal clothing and personal belongings and separate changing rooms are provided for both men and women.

If changing rooms are not required the relevant contractor shall ensure that every person at work is provided with a place to lock away his or her own clothes and personal belongings.



# Washing Facilities

A contractor responsible for a construction site shall ensure that adequate and suitable facilities for washing appropriate to the number of persons at work and the duration of the work are provided.

Where there are reasonable grounds for believing that the work will not be completed within 30 days the contractor responsible for the construction site shall ensure the following is provided:

- adequate troughs or basins which have smooth impermeable internal surfaces;
- adequate suitable means of cleaning and drying such as soap and cleans towels (the single towel for use by many should be discouraged) or other suitable means; and
- a sufficient supply of running hot and cold or warm water, hot water temperatures must be controlled so as to prevent scalding.

Where there are more than 100 persons at work and reasonable grounds to believe that the work will not be completed within 12 months washbasins shall be provided as follows:

- Six washbasins plus the addition of one for every 20 persons exceeding 100, or any fraction of a unit of 20 persons being treated as one

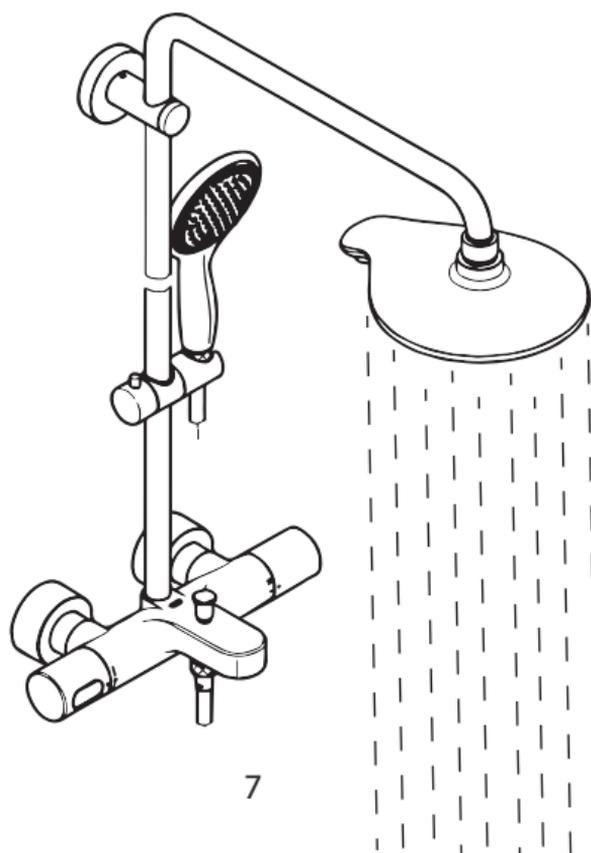
A contractor responsible for a construction site on which persons are at work where a dangerous substance is used shall provide an adequate number of nail brushes and provide one trough, basin, or washbasin, as may be appropriate, for every 5 persons at work.



## Washing Facilities (Cont'd)

The contractor responsible shall ensure that:

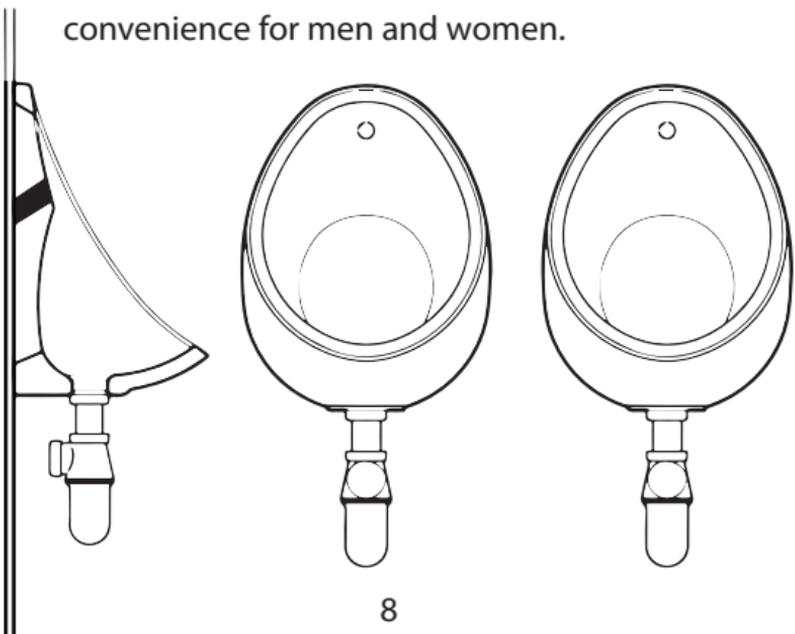
- the washing facilities provided have suitable accessibility from the accommodation provided for taking meals and ensure they have adequate lighting, proper ventilation and are kept clean and tidied;
- separate washbasins are provided for men and women where appropriate;
- where by the nature of the work or for health reasons suitable showers shall be provided and provision is made for separate shower rooms or separate use of shower rooms for both men and women;
- the shower rooms are sufficiently large enough, hygienic and equipped with hot and cold running water to allow each person to wash themselves effectively; and
- where the rooms housing the showers or washbasins are separate from the changing rooms ensure there is easy communication between them.



# Toilets

A contractor responsible for a construction site should ensure:

- at least one suitable sanitary convenience is provided, not being a convenience suitable only as a urinal for every 20 persons at work on the site;
- where there are more than 100 persons at work on a site and sufficient urinal accommodation is also provided, it shall suffice if there is one such convenience for every 25 persons up to the first 100 and for every 35 persons thereafter;
- where practicable every sanitary convenience discharges into a main sewer, is kept clean, tidy and properly ventilated and does not communicate with any workroom except through the open air or through an intervening ventilated space;
- every sanitary convenience shall be under cover and partitioned off to secure privacy;
- other than a convenience suitable only as an urinal, has a proper door and fastening;
- every sanitary convenience is easily accessible to persons at work at all times while they are at the site and where possible is convenient to the washing facilities; and
- provision shall be made for separate use of sanitary convenience for men and women.



## Accommodation Areas

A contractor responsible for a construction site should ensure that fixed living accommodation areas on the site, unless used only in exceptional cases:

- have adequate sanitary equipment, a rest room and a leisure room;
- are equipped with beds, cupboards, tables and seats with backs, taking account of the number of persons at work; and
- are allocated appropriately taking account of the presence of both men and women.

Safe access to places where facilities are provided

A contractor responsible for a construction site should ensure that:

- safe means of access and egress are provided and maintained to any from every place at which any of the facilities are situated; and
- every such place is made safe and kept safe for persons using the facilities.

## Pregnant Women and Nursing Mothers

A contractor responsible for a construction site should ensure that pregnant women and nursing mothers at work on the site are provided with appropriate facilities as set out in other relevant legislation. Where possible the facility should be situated near the welfare facilities (that is, toilet and washing facilities). Adequate space, heating and lighting are required.

## Persons with Disabilities

A contractor responsible for a construction site should ensure that places of work are organised to take account of persons at work with disabilities, in particular as regards doors, passageways, staircases, showers, washbasins, lavatories and work-stations used or occupied directly by those persons.

## Persons with Disabilities (Cont'd)

Ensure that adequate assistance is provided for the safe evacuation of those with a disability in the event of an emergency.

The Building Regulations Technical Guidance Document M provides advice on sanitary conveniences designed for use by people with disabilities.

The National Disability Authority may be contacted at its offices at 25 Clyde Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 (Tel: (01) 6080400) for further information

## Maintenance and Use of Welfare Facilities

A core aspect of the provision of welfare facilities is an adequate maintenance plan:

- Persons using the facilities should do so in a clean and hygienic condition and must not damage the facilities provided
- Where facilities are provided in another premises adjacent to the site, the standards of use that apply to these facilities must be maintained by persons using the facilities
- Site Rules for monitoring the provision, upkeep and use of welfare facilities should be prepared

## Further Information

Health & Safety Authority - ([www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie))

Construction Industry Federation - ([www.cif.ie](http://www.cif.ie))

Irish Congress of Trade Unions - ([www.ictu.ie](http://www.ictu.ie))

Construction Safety Partnership Advisory Committee(CSPAC)  
- ([www.csponline.ie](http://www.csponline.ie))

