
Part 24 Toilets and Washing Facilities

Highlights

- Section 356 clarifies employer's responsibilities regarding toilet facilities at mobile or temporary work sites.
- Section 359 requires employers always to provide workers with access to at least one wash basin or hand cleaning facility.

Requirements

Section 354 Restrictions by employer

The employer must not place unreasonable restrictions on a worker's use of drinking fluids, toilets, washing and hand cleaning facilities. Workers must be permitted access to these fluids and facilities when required.

Section 355 Drinking fluids

This section makes the employer responsible for making drinking fluids, potable water and single-use drinking cups (if applicable) available at a work site. Where outlets exist for both potable and non-potable water, the employer must clearly label the potable water outlet(s).

Section 356 Exception

This section specifies the type of work sites to which sections 357 to 361 do not apply. For periods of up to and including five working days at a mobile or temporary work site, an employer is not required to provide toilets, washing and hand cleaning facilities, or supplies and waste receptacles if the employer has made arrangements for workers to use local toilet facilities at a nearby public building, or getting permission from a local business or restaurant owner to use their facilities during the work period. This is intended to be a temporary measure to provide workers with access to toilet facilities.

If workers working for periods of up to and including five working days at a mobile or temporary work site do not have access to toilet facilities in such local public buildings or businesses, then the employer must meet the requirements of sections 357 to 361.

If workers work at a mobile or temporary work site for more than five working days, the employer must meet the requirements of sections 357 to 361, regardless of what other toilet facilities may be available locally.

Section 357 Toilet facilities

This section specifies the minimum number of toilets to be provided at a work site for members of each sex, based on the number of workers of that sex at the work site (see Table 24.1). Rules by which toilets are substituted with urinals are also described.

Table 24.1 Number of toilets required at a work site (appears in the OHS Code as Schedule 7)

Number of workers of the sex	Minimum number of toilets for that sex
1 - 10	1
11 - 25	2
26 - 50	3
51 - 75	4
76 - 100	5
> 100	6 plus 1 for each additional 30 workers of the sex in excess of 100

Section 358 Water and drainage

This section deals with the connection of toilets to sanitary drainage systems and, in the case of self-contained toilets, requires that they be emptied and serviced to prevent overflow.

Section 359 Hand cleaning facilities

The requirements of this section apply regardless of whether or not the work site is connected to a public or municipal water main and sanitary drainage system. A “hand cleaning” facility might be as simple and effective as providing the work site with waterless hand cleanser and paper towels, or several containers of wet wipes and a means of disposing of used wipes. Workers must always be provided the opportunity to wash their hands and face, particularly prior to eating.

Section 360 Supplies and waste receptacle

Employers must ensure that toilet compartments contain toilet paper, that cleaning agents and hand drying supplies or equipment are provided at each wash basin or hand cleaning facility, and that covered waste receptacles are provided.

Section 361 Condition of facilities

Employers must ensure that lunch rooms, change rooms, and sanitary and hand washing facilities are kept in a clean and sanitary condition and maintained so that the facilities are operational when required for use.

Changing rooms, lunch rooms, toilet facilities and rooms in which a wash basin or shower are located are not to be used for the storage of materials unless these spaces are built with proper storage facilities. Materials improperly stored in these high traffic and high use areas can create a slipping or tripping hazard, reduce the amount of intended space available to workers and the materials themselves may become a fire hazard or contain substances hazardous to workers.