

CDM regs 2007

The Principal Contractor and the Client must ensure suitable welfare arrangements are provided from the start of the construction phase.

Schedule 2 – Welfare Facilities

Welfare facilities provided by any contractor or principal contractor must comply with Schedule 2 of the CDM regulations 2007, namely the provision for suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, changing rooms and lockers where required and facilities for rest. See attached checklist for specifics.

Welfare Facilities can be on varying scales but must comprise of the above basics, examples are detailed below.

Medium to Long Term

Fixed in-situ temporary welfare facilities should be used where a site is of a medium to long term duration and consists of more than 10 workers. These can be in the form of modular units or portacabin type buildings. Separate messing to changing areas are required. Preferably separate facilities for men and women except where each convenience is in a separate room capable of being locked.



Short to Medium Term

For sites of smaller size, less number of workers and of a shorter duration, combined units, tow-able or static, are a good solution. Again, there should be separate mess and changing/drying facilities although it may not be possible to provide separate male and female toilets. These units ideally should only be used for numbers up to 7-10. Hot and cold water must be maintained for adequate washing facilities and regular servicing is required.



Short Term

For sites of short duration i.e. several days, welfare vans are an excellent solution. These vans cater for all of the above but on a smaller scale therefore they are only usually suitable for workers up to 5 in number. They have to be kept in good order and care is required when storing materials so that clean areas and sanitary facilities are not contaminated. Planning is required to ensure that the van is always at the work scene and not used for other purposes.



Temporary Only - Last Resort

Portable toilets or as they are affectionately known Thunderboxes are the last resort. If this is the only solution they must be provided with warm running water to comply with the legislation quoted above. Even then, they are not as good a solution, as they provide inadequate sized sinks and do not have any separate mess or drying facility. Those without warm water should never be used on construction sites.



Site Welfare Requirements extracted from the CDM regulations 2007, schedule 2.

General Provisions

Welfare facilities shall be sufficiently ventilated and lit and maintained in a clean and orderly fashion. They shall be made available in readily accessible places.

Sanitary Conveniences

Suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences in readily accessible places with adequate ventilation and lighting. Kept in a clean and orderly condition with separate rooms for men and women except where each convenience is in a separate room and is capable of being locked.



Washing Facilities

Suitable and Sufficient washing, including showers if required by the nature of the work or for health reasons, shall be provided – in the immediate vicinity of every sanitary convenience, whether or not provided elsewhere. Washing facilities shall include, a supply of clean hot and cold, or warm, water (which shall be running water so far as is reasonably practicable, soap or other suitable means of cleaning and towels or other suitable means of drying.



Drinking Water

An adequate supply of wholesome drinking water shall be provided or made available at readily accessible places. Every supply of drinking water shall be conspicuously marked by an appropriate sign. A sufficient number of cups or other drinking vessels should be provided unless drinking from a water fountain.



Changing rooms and lockers

Changing rooms shall be provided or made available at readily accessible places if a worker has to wear special clothing for the purposes of his work (i.e. overalls, boots, hats, vests etc) and he can not for reasons of health or propriety be expected to change else where. There shall be seating and include where necessary facilities to enable workers to dry said special clothing and his own clothing including personal effects. Where necessary lockers should be provided to enable workers to lock away any clothing not taken home or their own clothing not worn during work, this also includes personal effects.



Facilities for rest

Rest rooms shall be suitable and sufficient and made available in readily accessible places. They shall include suitable arrangements to protect non-smokers from tobacco smoke, be equipped with an adequate number of tables and adequate seating with backs. Where necessary include suitable facilities for any pregnant woman or nursing mother to rest and lay down. Shall include suitable arrangements for preparing and eating meals. Shall include the means for boiling water and be maintained at an appropriate temperature.

