



TNS CONTRACTORS LTD

Arrangements that ensure appropriate welfare facilities

If TNS CONTRACTORS LTD are a client (but not a domestic client, i.e. you or your family live in the building under construction) then we must ensure that your contractors have arrangements to provide adequate welfare facilities for construction workers. This does not mean that we have to provide the facilities our self. If the work is notifiable (that is lasts more than 30 days or will involve more than 500 person days of work) then we must ensure that construction work (including demolition) does not start until suitable welfare facilities are in place.

We then liaise with the client to ensure that the below is met as a minimum.

TNS CONTRACTORS LTD will give suitable and sufficient advice to the client on the measures needed to ensure that suitable welfare is provided during the construction phase.

Principal contractors

TNS CONTRACTORS LTD will make sure that suitable welfare facilities are provided from the start and are maintained throughout the construction phase.

Contractors (including the self-employed)

In all cases you should ensure that there are adequate welfare facilities for workers under your control.

Positioning on site

Sana will site welfare units and manage traffic effectively to ensure adequate segregation of pedestrians and vehicles.

Toilets

So far as is reasonably practicable Sana will provide flushing toilets and running water, connected to mains water and drainage systems. If this is not possible, facilities with a built-in water supply and drainage tanks should be used. Portable chemical toilets are acceptable only if it is not reasonably practicable to make other adequate provision.

Toilets must be adequately ventilated, lit and maintained in a clean condition. The frequency of cleaning will depend on usage. Basic daily cleaning may not always be sufficient.

Provide an adequate number of toilets. The number needed will depend on the number of workers on site and the type of facilities provided. Portable toilets have a limited capacity and will need emptying. The number of portable toilets needed depends on the number of persons and the frequency of emptying. BS6465– 1:2006 recommends a ratio of 1 toilet to 7 persons where portable toilets are emptied once a week.

Men and women may use the same toilet, if it is in a lockable room and partitioned from any urinals. Otherwise provide separate toilets. Adequate supplies of toilet paper should always be available.

Sanitary waste disposal should be provided in facilities used by female workers.

Planning

The availability of welfare facilities, their location on site and regular maintenance must be considered at the planning and preparation stages of every construction project, before construction work (including demolition) starts.

When planning welfare provision, consider:

- The nature of the work to be carried out and the health risks associated with it. For example, consider the provision of showers if the project involves hazardous substances or very dirty work, e.g. sewer maintenance, dusty demolition activities, work with contaminated land or concrete pouring;
- The distance workers will have to travel to the welfare facilities
- The duration of the work and number of different locations
- The numbers of people who will use them
- The cleaning and maintenance of the welfare facilities
- Whether they need to be relocated during the construction phase.

Installing and removing from site

Planed how welfare units will be moved from delivery vehicles into position. It is preferable to mechanically move these units; if manual handling cannot be avoided then you should manage the risk effectively. Your plans should cover safe lifting practices and ensure proper protection of workers from falls from vehicles or portable units.

Washing facilities

Provide washing facilities next to both toilets and changing areas. Consider placing them next to rest areas if these are far from toilets or changing areas.

They should include:

- a supply of clean hot and cold, or warm, water (which should be running water so far as is reasonably practicable)
- Soap or other suitable means of cleaning
- Towels or other suitable means of drying
- Sufficient ventilation and lighting
- Sinks large enough to wash face, hands and forearms.

Men and women can share sinks used for washing hands, face and arms. Unisex shower facilities can be provided if they are in a separate, lockable room, which can be used by one person at a time.

Heating

Rest facilities will normally require heating. Using properly maintained electrical equipment can eliminate the risks associated with LPG heaters. Inadequately ventilated LPG cookers and heaters can produce carbon monoxide, with potentially fatal results. Flammable gas may escape from leaking cylinders, which have not been properly turned off. If LPG is used reduce the risks by:

- Using and storing the cylinders in safe, well ventilated places outside the accommodation (including overnight) or in purpose-built ventilated storage areas

- Ensuring that the appliances have been properly installed, checked and maintained by a competent person
- Providing adequate combustion ventilation (provide fixed grilles at high and low level);
- Checking that the ventilation provided is not blocked, eg fixed grilles blocked by newspaper or rags in cold weather to 'stop draughts'
- Checking that cylinders are properly turned off when not in use and wall or ceiling-mounted carbon monoxide detectors.

Drinking water

A supply of wholesome drinking water should be readily available. Where possible, it should be supplied direct from the mains. If water is stored, protect it from possible contamination and make sure it is changed often enough to prevent it from becoming stale or contaminated. Where necessary, clearly mark the drinking water supply to prevent it being confused with hazardous liquids or water which is not fit to drink. Provide cups or other drinking vessels at the outlet, unless the water is supplied in an upward jet, which can be drunk easily (eg a drinking fountain).

Changing rooms and lockers

Every site should have arrangements for securely storing personal clothing not worn on site and for protective clothing needed for site work. Men and women should be able to change separately. Separate lockers might be needed, although on smaller sites the site office may be a suitable storage area provided it is kept secure. Where there is a risk of protective site clothing contaminating everyday clothing, items should be stored separately.

Provision should be made to allow wet clothing to be dried. As a general rule clothing should not be placed directly on heaters due to the risk of fire. If electrical heaters are used, they should be properly ventilated and, if possible, fitted with a high temperature cut-out device.

Rest facilities

Rest facilities should provide shelter from wind and rain. The rest facilities should have adequate numbers of tables, seating with backs, a means for heating water for drinks and for warming up food (eg a gas or electrical heating ring or microwave oven) and be adequately heated. Rest areas are not to be used to store plant, equipment or materials.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in enclosed public places and workplaces such as construction sites or work vehicles. Further information is available at

Use of alternative facilities for transient construction sites

For the purpose of this information sheet, a transient construction site is either where short duration work (up to a week) is carried out at one or many locations, or is of a longer duration carried out while moving over a continuous geographical area, eg major roadworks, cable laying contracts etc. In such cases, it may be appropriate to make arrangements to use facilities provided by the owner of existing premises, in which the work is being done, local public facilities or the facilities of local businesses. Clear agreement should be made with the provider of the facilities; it should not be assumed that local commercial premises can be used without their agreement. In all cases the standards above must be provided or made available. Facilities must be readily accessible to the worksite, open at all relevant times, be at no cost to the workers, be of an acceptable standard in terms of cleanliness and have handwashing facilities. Workers need to be made aware of the arrangements to use them and be informed of their location.

Table 1 gives an indication of the options available, in order of preference, for providing welfare facilities for transient construction sites.

Table 1 Welfare facilities: the options

Type of installation	Additional notes
1a Fixed installation: connected to mains drainage and water.	Order of preference:
1b Portable water flushing units with water bowser supplies and waste storage tanks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ on site; ■ at a base location; ■ at a satellite compound. <p>NB This may include the pre-arranged use of private facilities. Permission, preferably in writing, should be obtained from the proprietor in advance of the work starting. The use of public toilets is acceptable only where it is impractical to provide or make available other facilities.</p>
2 Portable installation on site.	Consisting of chemical toilet(s), washing facilities and sufficient tables and seating.
3 Suitably designed vehicle.	Consisting of chemical toilet(s), washing facilities and sufficient tables and seating.
4 Facilities which are conveniently accessible to the worksite (includes public toilets).	Use of public toilets is acceptable only where it is impractical to provide or make available other facilities.
5 Portable installation near site.	Incorporating a chemical toilet, washing facilities and sufficient tables and seating.

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