

Accessibility of Washroom Facilities

Generally, the walking distance from a working area to a washroom should not be more than 60 metres (200 feet). In multi-storied workplaces, washrooms should not be more than one floor above or below the working area.

In a workplace where the washroom facilities are not in a part of the building occupied by or under the control of the employer, the employer must ensure suitable facilities are available to workers.

If public-use washrooms are available within walking distance at the workplace, the employer may utilize these facilities for workers provided the facilities are kept clean and sanitary and are of sufficient number to accommodate the total number of users, including the anticipated number of workers and the public.

Where access to or installation of plumbed facilities is not practical, portable toilets should be provided and maintained. The number of portable facilities (toilets and hand-washing facilities) should be sufficient for the number of workers, and the facilities should be readily accessible to workers.

In highly transient or short-term operations, where it is not practicable to provide portable facilities, the needs of workers must be reasonably accommodated. Depending on the workplace location, workers may be given the opportunity to access alternative facilities such as those in parks or public buildings, or be provided with other options appropriate to the workplace location.

Change Facilities

- **"Protective work clothing"** means any clothing provided by the employer to protect the worker from hazards in the workplace or to prevent contamination of the workplace by materials the worker may bring into it on their personal clothing.
- **"Change area"** means a room or similar area within the workplace that will allow individual workers privacy while changing into or out of street clothes as necessary to properly use protective clothing.

Section 4.11 is intended to ensure that workers who are required to remove their street clothes and put on protective work clothing to perform their work are assured of privacy while changing. An adequate change area would also provide for a suitable place for workers to store their personal clothing and personal effects while they are working. A change area should contain or be in close proximity to individual lockers for the secure storage of the worker's clothing and personal effects.

Group change rooms may be provided but they should have provision for workers who wish personal privacy while changing clothes. A washroom with a lockable door or a room to which access can be restricted to ensure privacy may be suitable as a change room. A toilet stall with a locking door within a washroom would not normally be considered of sufficient size to function as a change area.