

WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE CHANGING AND SHOWER FACILITIES

- 1. Vulnerable users should be able to use facilities independently or with the assistance of others where necessary. Whereas some users will be happy to use changing and shower areas that are open but provided with sub-divisions others may require the privacy of an individual selfcontained cubicle or compartment providing space for a helper to provide assistance.
- 2. Where shower and changing facilities are combined they should be divided into distinct 'wet' and 'dry' areas.
- 3. Due to the difficulty of providing the configuration of controls, handrails and seating required for all vulnerable users in open changing and shower areas the provision of self-contained accommodation is the preferred option. Note that if the compartment contains a WC it should not be the only wheelchair-accessible WC provided.
- 4. For individual changing cubicle not associated with showering, e.g. in clothes shops, the recommended dimensions and fittings should be the same as for a self-contained cubicle in a sports building.
- 5. In large building complexes such as shopping malls and sports centres there should be at least one wheelchair-accessible unisex toilet sized to accommodate an adult changing table.

WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE BATHROOMS

- 1. The provisions section applies to bathing facilities where provided in buildings such as hotels and relatives' accommodation in hospitals and where baths are provided as an alternative or in addition to showers. For guidance on the provision of en-suite bathrooms in hotels see Section 4.6.
- 2. Wherever possible a choice of bathroom layouts should be provided to meet the varied needs of vulnerable users and to help maintain independence. The spatial arrangement of bathrooms should facilitate independent use and provide space for a helper to provide assistance. The space required for manoeuvring is therefore critical.

SURFACES, DOORS, FIXTURES AND FITTINGS

- 1. Materials, fixtures and fittings should be robust, easy to use, maintain and replace.
- 2. The configuration of materials, fixture and fittings should minimise the potential for physical harm.

CHANGING PLACES TOILETS

- 1. People with complex and multiple disabilities require more space and additional facilities in order to use the toilet comfortably and where required with appropriate assistance. Changing Places (CP) toilets respond to this need and are designed for people who are unable to use standard accessible toilets and where required their provision is in addition to the normal range of accessible sanitary facilities.

- 2. CP facilities should be provided in retail malls, sports, leisure and entertainment venues, large hotels, transport interchanges, healthcare buildings and education establishments.
- 3. Where space allows, a CP toilet should be located close to a customer service desk or staffed area so that the facility can be actively controlled and managed. Routes to the CP toilet should be accessible.
- 4. Signage should be provided identifying the CP toilet and the location of the nearest unisex accessible toilet in order that it is not used by people who are able to use other facilities.
- 5. Due to the specialist nature of this facility local user groups, organisations and health professional should be consulted for guidance on the most appropriate equipment, fittings and layout.
- 6. Drop down rails that are height adjustable offer improved safety for users.
- 7. Hoists should be selected based on their compatibility with the widest range of sling types and guidance should be sought from local user groups. Handset control units should be easy to use and supplemented by auxiliary controls on the motor unit. Hoists should incorporate an emergency lowering and emergency stopping device together with softstart and soft-stop motor control functions.
- 8. Hoists should be inspected, serviced and maintained on a regular basis to ensure continued safe and effective use.
- 9. Changing benches should have a powered height adjustment function and a back rest at one end for comfort. The surface material should be suitable for changing and showering.
- 10. The design of the facility should enable maximum flexibility with respect to use and users.

Materials, fixtures and fittings should be robust, easy to use, maintain and replace. The compartment structure will be required to accept a hoist installation.

11. Further detailed guidance regarding the design of CP toilets can be found in Changing Places: A Practical Guide and the Changing Places website: www.changing-places.org (Refer to Appendix A for the detailed link).

PRAYER WASHING FACILITIES

- 1. Prayer washing facilities should be accessible to vulnerable users whether they are provided in a mosque or in association with prayer rooms in other buildings such as offices, education establishments, airports etc.
- 2. The floor surface in prayer washing facilities should be self-draining and non-slip.
- 3. Consideration should be given to the provision of seats at different heights or adjustable height seating for the washing positions.
- 4. Hand dryers and coat hooks should be provided at a range of heights.
- 5. Footwear storage should be provided at a range of heights.

ACCESSIBLE BABY CHANGING FACILITIES

- 1. Where provided the facilities should be located separately from single sex sanitary accommodation so that they can be used jointly by male and female parents and carers. Fold-down baby changing tables should not be located in unisex accessible WC's.

4.5.3 DESIRABLE DESIGN FEATURES

- 1. In residential apartments there is at least one bathroom (located at the same level as the entrance) with toilet and shower/bathing facilities that can readily be retrofitted for use by the elderly and wheelchair users. The layout provides a clear space of 1500mm diameter or a 1700mm x 1400mm ellipse and the walls are reinforced to allow the retrofitting of grab bars between the height of 300mm and 1500mm above finished floor level.