

Prepared by the Winnipeg Construction Association, and intended as a guideline to increase awareness of recommended industry practice

PRACTICE BULLETIN #3

April 30, 2020

SUBJECT: ON-SITE SANITATION REQUIREMENTS IN PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

Currently the Workplace Safety and Health regulations outline the minimum sanitation requirements for workplaces. The requirements outlined are for all workplaces, including construction sites, however there is currently a reference to construction sites in the Regulations¹ that allow for weaker sanitation requirements ‘when not reasonably practical’.

It is the goal of the WCA to improve minimum sanitation requirements on ICI worksites to include mandatory hand-washing facilities as described in 4.9(1) and (2) in the Workplace Safety and Health Regulations².

Hand washing facilities:

4.9(1) An employer may substitute circular wash fountains for washbasins required by section 4.7³ on the basis that each 500 mm of the fountain’s circumference is equivalent to one washbasin.

4.9(2) An employer must ensure that a washbasin

- a. is located in close proximity to each toilet;
- b. has a supply of clean hot and cold water;
- c. is supplied with soap and individual disposable clean towels or other suitable means of cleaning and drying hands; and
- d. is kept clean, sanitary and operational.

WCA recommends that specification writers for projects include this requirement. To do this, under the Sanitary Facilities section of the Construction Facilities the Specification can include:

- Hand washing facilities to be compliant with 4.9 (1) and 4.9(2) of the Workplace Safety and Health Regulations.
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¹ 4.10 – Hand Cleaning Facilities at Construction Project Sites

² There will be sites that this requirement is not feasible such as highly remote sites, ‘mobile construction sites’ and short duration projects (less than 1 month).

³ 4.7 Stipulates the number of toilets and washbasins required for each gender depending of workers on-site.