



Social Facilities on Building Sites in Brandenburg

Requirements for Portable Toilet Cabins and Toilet Rooms

Foreword

For many years German workplace legislation has regulated the type and extent of sanitary facilities to be provided on building sites. The specific requirements for sanitary facilities, break rooms and essential first aid supplies were updated only a few months ago. Responsible building contractors should be fully familiar with these requirements, include them into construction work progress and consider them in offer and construction site facilities.

According to the German Building Site Regulations (BaustellV), coordinating sanitary facilities used jointly by several construction companies are in the responsibility of the general contractor or coordinator. The establishment and joint use of social facilities must be regulated in the Building Site Health and Safety Plan („SiGe-Plan“).

If no, too few or deficient, e.g. badly soiled, social facilities are found in building site inspections, the responsible party will be held to account. Individual irregularities in this area may be punished by a fine of up to € 1,000. This leaflet summarises the minimum requirements for setting up and operating social facilities on construction sites in an easy-to-read format.

Mobile, Unconnected Toilet Cabins ...

- are lockable;
- have a solid waste tank of at least 230 litres capacity (state-of-the-art);
- are preferably equipped with integrated washing facilities or have such facilities in the immediate vicinity. Please note that these washing facilities in the immediate vicinity to the toilet must be equipped with running water and a closed waste water discharge system;
- In frosty temperatures the employer has to take suitable measures to ensure that mobile toilet cabins can be used:

from 15 October to 30 April, only those mobile toilet cabins equipped with frost monitors may be used.

- Unconnected mobile toilet cabins must be cleaned daily.
- Mobile toilet cabins will not be required if equivalent facilities off the building site can be accessed within no more than five minutes and can be used.
- Additional mobile, unconnected toilet cabins may be required for constantly-changing workplaces located on more than one floor above or below the toilet rooms.

Toilet Rooms ...

- have lockable doors;
- have sufficient toilet bowls and hand-washing facilities (see Table 2);
- must have functioning ventilation systems;
- will be located in the vicinity of the break-rooms **and**
- must not be further than 100 m away from the workplace. If this is not possible, due to special nature of the building site, the distance to these facilities must not exceed a five minutes' walk or tour by a vehicle provided by the company;
- with more than one toilet cubicle must be equipped with a vestibule or have suitable visual protection (privacy);
- floors and walls of toilet rooms must be easy to clean;
- toilet rooms are to be cleaned at least twice a week;
- toilet rooms will not be required if equivalent facilities outside the building site can be accessed within no more than five minutes and can be used.

Requirements for Break rooms and Wash rooms

Break rooms ...

- have at least 2.30 m headroom;
- have a minimum base area of 1 m², sufficient seating with backrests and tables for every user present simultaneously;
- are equipped with facilities for heating meals, lockable cupboards and equipment for drying work-clothing;
- are heatable to 21 °C from 15 October to 30 April;
- must be easy to clean: a waste container with a lid has to be provided;
- are to be set up in a safe place, i.e. they may not be set up under floating loads or near falling objects;
- break areas must not be further away than 100 m from the place of work;
- the time for the distance to the breakroom must not exceed a five minutes walk or by a vehicle provided by the company.

Wash rooms ...

- must have a sufficient number of showers; constant cold and hot water must be provided;
- are to be located in the immediate proximity of the break rooms and changing rooms. The way from the wash room to the changing room may lead through the open air if it is concealed from public view and protected from the elements;
- are not necessary if employees return to the company premises every day after work and can use the necessary sanitary facilities there;
- employers may use third parties' sanitary facilities if these are available in sufficient numbers and are maintained.

Table 1: Minimum Number of Toilets, Urinals, Washing Places and Shower Stalls

Max. No. of Employees Normally Using Sanitary Facilities	Minimum Number		
	Washing Places	Shower Stalls	Toilets / Urinals ¹
up to 5	1	0	1 ²
6 to 10	2	0	1 ²
11 to 20	3	1	2
21 to 30	5	1	3
31 to 40	7	2	4
41 to 50	9	2	5
51 to 75	12	3	6
76 to 100	14	4	7
additional groups of 30 or more	+3	+1	+1

¹ At least one third of sanitary facilities to be provided for male employees are to be toilets; the remainder are to be urinals.

² One additional urinal is recommended for male employees.

Social Facilities Required on Building Sites

Table 2: Social Facilities Required on Building Sites

Type of Facility	Up to four employees work on a building site for one week max. or no more than 20 man days	Up to 10 employees work on a building site for less than two weeks	11 - 50 employees work on a building site regardless of duration	51 or more employees work on a building site regardless of duration
Break room/ Break Area	Break room not required if equivalent facilities are available to enable employees to warm up, change clothes and eat meals	Break room required	Break room required	Break room required
Unconnected Mobile Toilet Cabin	Mobile toilet cabin – preferably with washing facilities – required	Mobile toilet cabin – preferably with washing facilities – required	Prohibited	Prohibited
Toilet Room³	not required	not required	Toilet room required	Toilet room required
Wash room³	Washing Facilities (Appendix 4.1 Para. 2)	Washing Facilities (Appendix 4.1 Para. 2)	Wash room required	Wash room required
First Aid Supplies / Equipment	1 small first aid kit	1 small first aid kit	1 large first aid kit	2 large first aid kits (51-100 employees) plus a large first aid kit for every 50 additional employees
First Aid Room	not required	not required	not required	First aid room on ground floor or first aid container at ground level

³ Separate toilets, wash rooms and changing rooms must be available for both sexes. On building sites with up to 21 employees or up to 6 men and women working at the same time, it is sufficient to enable use at different times.

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