

**Provision of Sanitary Fitments in Offices, Shopping Arcades and
Department Stores, Places of Public Entertainment and Cinemas**

The Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulations stipulate drainage requirements for private buildings in Hong Kong. Such requirements, inter alia, include the provisions of sanitary fitments to various types of premises. As these requirements were developed in the late 50s, Buildings Department (BD) has commissioned a consultancy study to review the drainage regulations with a view to bringing them up-to-date.

2. In the course of the review, the consultant has proposed a number of recommendations, which include, inter alia, a new set of requirements on the provisions of sanitary fitments. To take forward the consultant's recommendations, we intend to propose amendments to the relevant Building Regulations after consultation with the building industry upon completion of the study.

3. In the meantime, in view of public concern on the inadequacy of sanitary fitments for female persons in some commercial buildings, Authorized Persons are strongly recommended to adopt the following recommendations voluntarily in new projects to address the deficiency in the provision of sanitary fitments for female persons in offices, shopping arcades, department stores, places of public entertainment and cinemas.

Males to Females Ratio

4. It is recommended that the ratio of male person to female person be taken as 1:1 in the assessment of populations for the provision of sanitary fitments for both male and female persons for office accommodation. In this regard, the Building Authority is prepared to favourably consider application for modification to vary the ratio of male person to female person stipulated in Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulation 5(5)(c).

5. For the assessment of population in shopping arcades, department stores, places of public entertainment and cinemas, it is suggested that the ratio of male person to female person be taken as 1:1.25 for the assessment of the populations for each group. In this regard, the Building Authority is prepared to grant modification to vary the ratio of male person to female person stipulated in Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulation 6(3)(b) and 7(3)(b).

Assessment of Population

6. For the purpose of assessing the provision of sanitary fitments in shopping arcades, department stores, cinemas and places of public entertainment without fixed seating, it is suggested that the populations be assessed in accordance with Tables 1 and 2 respectively in Appendix A.

7. For cinemas and places of public entertainment with fixed seating, it is recommended that the populations be taken as the total number of seats together with the estimated number of employees.

8. The assessment of population for office shall be assessed in accordance with Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulation 5(5)(a).


Provision of sanitary fitments

9. In assessing the sanitary fitments for male person and female person for shopping arcades, department stores, places of public entertainment and cinemas, it is recommended that Tables 3 to 11 in Appendix A be adopted. In this regard, if there are cases where the number of sanitary fitments provided in accordance with Appendix A is less than that required under the Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulations, Building Authority is prepared to favourably consider applications for modification to vary the standards of sanitary fitments stipulated in these regulations.

10. The provision of sanitary fitments for office shall be assessed in accordance with Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulation 5(1), (3) & (4).

Sanitary fitments for use by children

11. To facilitate children to use sanitary fitments in shopping arcades and department stores and other public places, authorized persons are advised to design some of the provisions (e.g. urinal, basin, water closet) suitable for the use by children.


(Marco M H WU)
Building Authority

Ref. : BD GP/BREG/SF/1 (III)

First issue May 2005 (AD/NB1)

Index under : B(SSFPDW&L)R

A. Assessment of Population

Table 1

Level of shopping arcades or department stores	Factor representing usable floor area in m ² per person
Basement, G/F, 1/F & 2/F	3
3/F or above	4.5

Note: the usable floor area shall include the public circulation space as it normally forms part of the premises, except for shopping arcades where a notional arcade width of 2.5m and 3.0m for single-loaded and double-loaded shopping malls respectively will be used.

Table 2

Intended use of storey where a public entertainment is presented or carried on	Factor representing usable floor area in m ² per person
*Assembly halls, auditoria and stadia without seating or with movable seating	0.5
Dance halls (calculated on dancing area), disco and venues for dancing party	0.75
Museums, exhibition halls, trademarts and display areas	2

* The usable floor area shall refer to the areas intended for use by spectators

**B. Provision of Sanitary Fitments in Shopping Arcades and Department
Stores**

Table 3

No. of male persons	No. of water closets	No. of urinals
1-500 inclusive	1 for every 125 persons or part thereof	1 for every 250 persons or part thereof
More than 500	4 plus 1 for every additional 250 persons or part thereof	

Table 4

No. of female persons	No. of water closets
1-50 inclusive	1 for every 25 persons or part thereof
51-125 inclusive	3
126-250 inclusive	4
More than 250	4 plus 1 for every additional 100 persons or part thereof

Table 5

No. of persons		No. of lavatory basins
Male	1-500 inclusive	1 for every 125 persons or part thereof
	More than 500	4 plus 1 for every additional 250 persons or part thereof
Female	1-500 inclusive	1 for every 125 persons or part thereof
	More than 500	4 plus 1 for every additional 250 persons or part thereof

C. Provision of Sanitary Fitments in Places of Public Entertainment

Table 6

No. of male persons	No. of water closets	No. of urinals
1 - 400 inclusive	1 for every 100 persons or part thereof	1 for every 50 persons or part thereof
More than 400	4 plus 1 for every additional 250 persons or part thereof	

Table 7

No. of female persons	No. of water closets
<200 inclusive	2 for every 50 persons or part thereof
>200	8 plus 1 for every additional 50 persons or part thereof

Table 8

No. of persons	No. of lavatory basins
Male	1 for every 100 persons or part thereof
Female	1 for every 100 persons or part thereof

D. Provision of Sanitary Fitments in Cinemas

Table 9

No. of male persons	No. of water closets	No. of urinals
1 - 200 inclusive	1	1 for every 100 persons or part thereof
201 - 500 inclusive	2	
501 - 1000 inclusive	3	
More than 1000	3 plus 1 for every additional 500 persons or part thereof	

Table 10

No. of female persons	No. of water closets
1-150 inclusive	1 for every 50 persons or part thereof
More than 150	3 plus 1 for every additional 75 persons or part thereof

Table 11

No. of persons		No. of lavatory basins
Male	1 - 200 inclusive	1
	201 - 500 inclusive	2
	501 - 1000 inclusive	3
	More than 1000	3 plus 1 for every additional 500 persons or part thereof
Female	1 - 200 inclusive	1
	201 - 500 inclusive	2
	501 - 1000 inclusive	3
	More than 1000	3 plus 1 for every additional 500 persons or part thereof

(May 2005)