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BS6465-1:2006 – A New Toilet Ratio

For many years portable toilet providers and Service Operators in the UK and EU have recommended a toilet to person ratio of one to ten for all workplaces and particularly where the toilets are intended for use by or in the construction industry.

In 2006 however, British Standards Institute (BSI) produced a new standard for temporary toilet provision in the workplace. The new standard BS6465-1:2006, was published in 2007 and has since been adopted by Portable Sanitation Europe Ltd (PSE) as being 'Best Practice'. Members of PSE, and particularly those having achieved the Silver and/or Gold Award standards will always recommend that this British Standard be adhered to.

On Page No: 17 of the standard, in section 6.4.5 Remote and Temporary Workplaces, the wording of the standard is:

6.4.5.1: Remote and temporary workplaces, where it is not practicable to use plumbed appliances, should be provided with waterless or portable toilets and washing facilities (see also Clause 9 for Events).

6.4.5.2: As portable toilets have limited capacity and need emptying, it is recommended that one WC per seven persons is provided where once-a-week emptying is provided.

6.4.5.3: Workers in a stationary work location should not have to walk more than 150 metres to the toilet.

6.4.5.4: All portable toilets should be positioned in a place accessible to the vehicles necessary for delivery and emptying.

Note: Your attention is drawn to the following documents:

Workplace (Health Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992

*HSE publications CIS18, Provision of Welfare Facilities at Fixed Construction Sites**

*HSE publications CIS46, Provision of Welfare Facilities at Transient Construction Sites**

**These documents are currently (May 2009) the subject of a review by HSE and may be amalgamated into one document in the future.*