

HRIA LTD

# PORTABLE TOILETS CODE OF PRACTICE

**GUIDELINES FOR THE PROVISION OF PORTABLE  
TOILETS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES AND AT  
EVENTS WHERE CONNECTION TO A SEWER IS NOT  
PRACTICAL**

Issue: October 2021

**HRIA Ltd**

**PORTABLE TOILETS DIVISION**

**CODE OF PRACTICE**

**OBJECTIVE**

Establish a National Code of Practice for portable toilets in construction sites and at events that will be adopted by HRIA Ltd Members as best practice.

It is the supplier of portable toilets responsibility to check and comply with local, State and Federal laws as well as Australian Standards and OHS/WHS rules and regulations.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

There has been a necessity to use mobile sanitary facilities in many different locations for many years. Wherever large numbers of people congregate over a longer period in places where there are no or insufficient existing sanitary facilities it has become standard practice to provide mobile non-sewer connected portable toilets.

This Code of Practice sets minimum standards for portable toilets including manufacture, delivery and collection, on-site use and servicing. Emphasis is placed on hygiene and safety not only for the public or users but also the personnel who transport, service and maintain these units.

This Code of Practice has been developed by the Industry for the Industry. It has evolved from extensive research into existing guidelines, regulations and standards at State, National and International levels and is reviewed regularly by the HRIA to ensure it reflects current knowledge and practice. The relevant standards have been reviewed and adopted where appropriate.

## 2.0 REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITY & COMPLIANCE MATRIX

The below matrix is for Portable Toilets where connection to a sewer is not possible. As far as can be ascertained the following regulatory bodies have regulatory control over the listed toilet types:

STATE	NAME OF REGULATORY DEPARTMENT	TYPES OF ACCEPTED PORTABLE TOILET		
		Fresh Water Flush	Straight Drop	Recirculating
NSW	Safework NSW P: 13 10 50 W: <a href="http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au">www.safework.nsw.gov.au</a>	Yes	CLR	CLR
QLD	Workplace Health & Safety QLD P: 1300 362 128 W: <a href="http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au">www.worksafe.qld.gov.au</a>	Yes	CLR	CLR
SA	SafeWork SA P: 1300 365 255 W: <a href="http://www.safework.sa.gov.au">www.safework.sa.gov.au</a>	Yes	CLR	CLR
TAS	Worksafe Tasmania P: 1300 366 322 W: <a href="http://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au">www.worksafe.tas.gov.au</a>	Yes	CLR	CLR
VIC	WorkSafe VIC P: 1800 136 089 W: <a href="http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au">www.worksafe.vic.gov.au</a>	Yes	No	Yes - Public events No - Construction workplaces
WA	WA Department of Health P: 1800 022 222 W: <a href="http://www.health.wa.gov.au">www.health.wa.gov.au</a> Refer: Health (Temporary Sanitary Conveniences) Regulations 1997 - <a href="#">HERE</a>	Yes	CLR	CLR
ACT	Worksafe ACT P: 13 22 81 W: <a href="http://www.worksafe.act.gov.au">www.worksafe.act.gov.au</a>	Yes	CLR	CLR
NT	NT WorkSafe P: 1800 019 115 W: <a href="http://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au">www.worksafe.nt.gov.au</a>	Yes	CLR	CLR
FEDERAL	Safework Australia <a href="http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au">www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au</a> & other regulatory departments : <a href="http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/about/who-we-work-with/regulators/commonwealth-national/pages/commonwealth-national-regulators">http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/about/who-we-work-with/regulators/commonwealth-national/pages/commonwealth-national-regulators</a>	Yes	CLR	CLR

CLR - Check Local Regulations

### 3.0 SCOPE OF CODE

This code specifically applies to portable toilets that are not connected to a sewerage system. It specifies the requirements of the services relating to the use of the portable toilets taking into account hygiene, health and safety and existing State legislation and codes of practice regarding suitable toilet types.

It specifies minimum quality requirements relating to construction of the unit, sanitary products, cleaning requirements and servicing standards.

It also gives guidance on location options and the number of units required.

The below table summarises the Code highlighting best practice and acceptable standards when supplying portable toilets, be they fresh water flush, recirculating or straight drop.

<b>Construction Site</b>	<b>Best Practice</b>	<b>Acceptable Practice</b>
Fresh Water Flush (FF)	Weekly full pump and reset	Fortnightly pump and reset
Open Closet (straight drop) (SD)	Weekly full pump and reset	Fortnightly pump and reset
Chemical Recirculating Flush (RF)	Not suitable for Construction Site	Not suitable for Construction Site
<b>EVENTS</b>		
Fresh Water Flush (Based on minimum useable capacity of 100L)	Daily pump and reset. Toilet attendants on site recommended for major events and whenever practicable	Daily pump and reset
Open Closet (straight drop)	Not suitable for events	Daily pump and reset
Chemical Recirculating Flush (Based on minimum useable capacity of 100L)	Daily pump and reset. Toilet attendants on site for major events and whenever practicable	Daily pump and reset

## 4.0 DEPLOYMENT AND FREQUENCY OF USE

### 4.1 GENERAL PROVISION FOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES (EXCLUDING EVENTS)

The following provisions give guidance on the calculations to use to work out unit numbers.

No. of People on Site	No. of Toilets based on Weekly Service	No. of Toilets based on Fortnightly Service
1 – 5	1	1
6 – 10	1	2
11 – 20	2	4
21 +	Add 1 toilet for every 10 additional people	Not recommended

### 4.2 EVENTS

Supplier to assess requirements of the event on an individual basis

	No. of users (50% male and 50% female)	Minimum number of portable toilets (for an event of up to 6 hours duration)	Minimum number of portable toilets (for an event of up to 12 hours duration)
a)	Up to 240	3	4
b)	250-499	4	6
c)	500 to 900	6	9
d)	1000 to 1999	12	18
e)	2000 to 2999	25	38
f)	3000 to 3999	38	57
g)	4000 to 4999	50	75
h)	5000 to 5999	63	95
i)	6000 to 6999	75	113
j)	7000 to 7999	88	132
k)	8000 to 8999	100	150
l)	9000 to 9999	113	170
m)	10000 to 12499	125	188
n)	12500 to 14999	156	234
o)	15000 to 17499	188	282
p)	17500 to 19999	219	329
q)	20000	250	375
r)	Over 20000	Individual calculation required	

Cleaning interval: Intermediate cleaning or stand-by duty on site are not considered in this table. This requires individual calculation. If events last longer than 6 hours or 12 hours, the toilet shall be cleaned at intervals of 6 hours or 12 hours.

When food and drinks are served, the number of toilets shall be increased owing to a higher frequency of use. An increase of at least 30% is recommended.

If the percentage of female users exceeds 50%, the number of cabins shall be increased. The increased number shall be agreed between the renter and the supplier.

Accessible toilets need to be considered in discussion with the customer.

Unisex toilets must be provided where there is any likelihood of female workers. These must include the provision for the disposal of sanitary items.

## 5.0 CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

Single portable toilets should be constructed of good weathering, UV resistant and durable materials that are easily maintained and serviced through frequent cleaning cycles. The toilet cabin and its internal components should comply where applicable with existing regulations and be of a quality and design that will provide a safe, clean and hygienic temporary sanitary facility.

### 5.1 WALLS, DOOR, FLOOR AND ROOF

- a) Walls should be constructed of a weatherproof impervious material, be opaque and be easily cleaned.
- b) Floors need to be adequately drained to quickly dispense with water used in the cleaning of the cabin and made of a resilient, easily cleaned, waterproof, non-skid material.
- c) The floor, at any part, shall withstand the weight of up to 200kgs.
- d) Doors are required to be self-closing, close fitting and have an internal locking device. An occupied indicator should be available (Note: older models may not have an indicator or be self-closing).
- e) The roof should be made of an impact resistant material that provides adequate light within the cabin.
- f) Overall minimum size of toilet cabin shall be 1000mm x 1000mm x 2150 high. (Note: older portables may have a 900mm x 1000mm base).
- g) Ventilation shall be adequate to allow enough air flow into the toilet.

### 5.2 INTERNAL REQUIREMENTS

- a) Internal height will be a minimum of 1900mm.
- b) The cabin design shall provide for adequate ventilation and air flow.
- c) A suitable toilet paper dispenser with toilet paper will be provided.
- d) A hinged toilet seat with cover is required.
- e) A wash hand basin should be provided with the used water being discharged to the waste storage tank (FF).
- f) The waste tank shall have a minimum useable capacity of 100 litres, be impact and corrosion resistant, impervious and not leak.
- g) The waste tank shall be vented through the roof via a minimum 50mm diameter vent stack.

### **5.3 WASTE STORAGE TANK**

- a) The unit will be fitted with a waste effluent tank and shall be one of the following: freshwater flush tank with bowl and hand or foot pump, drop tank, re-circulating flush tank with bowl and hand or foot pump.
- b) The tank is to be vented through the roof with a minimum diameter of 50mm.
- c) The tank is to be constructed so it is impact and corrosion resistant, impervious and does not leak.
- d) The tank will have a minimum useable capacity of 100L.
- e) Any external draw off points should be secured by a lockable device.
- f) Fresh water flush toilets will provide a flush of fresh water to the toilet bowl providing a minimum of 200ml per flush.

### **5.4 SUPPLEMENTARY EQUIPMENT**

Any supplementary equipment may include the following:

- a) Urinals
- b) Mirror
- c) Wash hand basin
- d) Soap dispenser
- e) Towel dispenser
- f) Lighting
- g) Corner shelf
- h) External lock
- i) Lifting points that comply to the appropriate Australian Standards.
- j) Coat hook inside the cabin.
- k) Female sanitary unit



## **6.0 SERVICE AND DELIVERY**

The transportation and disposal of the waste shall be in accordance with the National or State regulations as applicable.

### **6.1 SERVICING**

It is recommended that toilets should be cleaned fortnightly as a minimum (based on up to 5 people @ 2 uses per day per 5-day week). Portable toilets involved in Events need to be cleaned and serviced at a much higher frequency to maintain hygiene. This includes cleaning the toilet thoroughly – replenishing water, chemicals and toilet paper. A special purpose-built truck must be used for pumping out.

### **6.2 PUMPOUTTRUCK**

The truck must be fit for purpose and have a waste tank, freshwater tank, deodoriser, rolls of toilet paper, wands, hoses, spill absorbent kit, hand cleaning facilities, cleaning tools, shovel, a waste bin and the appropriate MSDS's.

### **6.3 TRANSPORTATION OF PORTABLE TOILETS**

The best practice for the transportation of Portable Toilets and Site Waste Holding Tanks is for them to be pumped prior to transportation or contain a maximum of approximately 10% waste (unless the manufacturer specifies otherwise).

Occasionally they may need to be transported prior to pumping but this should only be conducted as a last resort. If a unit requires moving without pump out it should be double strapped across the top of the unit in alignment with the top frames (i.e., not across the middle of the roof) and strapped around the middle of the unit where possible. It is also recommended to strap at the bottom of the unit on the skid and that the toilet seat/tank is taped down to prevent spillage. The unit should be positioned in a direction so that spillage over the vehicles outer limits is also eliminated. The unit should be towed at a safe speed and taken directly to the nearest dump point for emptying. It is highly recommended that a spill kit is fitted or carried in the vehicle and the operator is trained in its use.

## **6.4 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY – STATE & TERRITORY REGULATIONS**

### **New South Wales**

[Transporting hazardous waste](#)

[Transporting waste](#)

### **Queensland**

[Waste tracking](#)

### **Victoria**

[Waste duties](#)

### **South Australia**

[Tracking & transporting waste](#)

### **Tasmania**

[Handling controlled waste](#)

### **Northern Territory**

[Movement of controlled waste](#)

### **Australian Capital Territory**

[Waste management](#)

### **Western Australia**

[Controlled waste](#)

## 7.0 CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

### 7.1 CLEANING

The unit will be thoroughly cleaned in an approved wash down facility.

- a) Personnel cleaning units shall wear all appropriate PPE.
- b) Use suitable chemicals and brushes or pressure washers in an approved wash down area.
- c) All the parts of the unit will be cleaned, including:
  - i. urinal
  - ii. accessible areas of waste tank (top, front and inside)
  - iii. fresh water tank
  - iv. bowl and flap
  - v. walls, floors, door and roof – both inside and out.

Toilet Servicing Procedure - Checklist	Site Clean	Yard Clean
Vac Pump the waste tank until completely empty		
Thoroughly wash out waste tank with fresh water, whilst vacuuming out the wash water to leave a clean waste tank (including filter **)		
Remove all or any foreign objects		
Clean toilet seat, replace if broken		
Clean all internal walls and floor		
Add the recommended dosage of approved chemical and enough water to cover solid waste		
Replenish toilet paper		
Refill water for hand basin and flush system		
Test flush system and pump *		
Ensure toilet is on a level surface		
Clean toilet externally		
Check door locks		
Deodorise		
Flush the toilet until all liquid has been purged out of the flush line and only air is being pumped through **		
Add sufficient water to cover the filter by at least 20mm **		
Flush the toilet until the flush line is fully charged with chemical mix **		

\*Full flush and hand basin toilets

\*\*Recirculating toilets