

CODE APPLICATION NOTICE

Subject: Handwashing Fixture and Lavatory
Requirements for Airborne Infection Isolation
and Protective Environment Rooms

CAN NO. 2-1224.14.3
EFFECTIVE: 04/21/09

CODE SECTIONS

Section 1224.14

2007 California Building Code (CBC)

Footnote 5, Table 4-2, Minimum Plumbing Facilities

2007 California Plumbing Code (CPC)

2007 California Building Code**1224.14 NURSING SERVICE SPACE.****1224.14.1 Patient rooms.**

...

1224.14.1.6 Handwashing fixtures. *A handwashing fixture shall be provided in the patient room. In multiple-bed rooms the handwashing fixture shall be located outside of the patient's cubicle curtain so that it is accessible to staff. Where renovation of patient rooms is undertaken a handwashing fixture shall be located in the toilet or patient room.*

...

1224.14.3 Airborne infection isolation rooms.

1224.14.3.1 General. *Single rooms shall be provided for the isolation of patients with airborne communicable disease at a ratio of one room for each 35 licensed beds, ...*

1224.14.3.3 Anteroom. *A separate anteroom shall be provided between the airborne infection isolation room and the corridor, which shall constitute the primary entrance to the airborne infection isolation room. This anteroom shall have a handwashing fixture, work counter at least 3 feet (914 mm) long, cabinets and space to gown and to store clean and soiled materials. ...*

...

1224.14.3.6 Adjoining toilet room. *Each isolation room shall have its own adjoining toilet room with an emergency nurse call system, a lavatory, a shower providing a seat or a space for a shower chair and a toilet equipped with a bedpan flushing attachment with a vacuum breaker.*

1224.14.4 Protective environment room(s).

1224.14.4.1 General. *Protective environment rooms for the protection of certain immunosuppressed patients may be provided by the facility. ...*

...

1224.14.4.3 Anteroom. *A separate anteroom shall be provided between the protective environment room and the corridor, hallway or adjoining space which shall constitute the only entrance to the protective environment room. This anteroom shall have a handwashing fixture, work counter at least 3 feet (914 mm) long, cabinets and space to gown and to store clean and soiled materials.*

...

1224.14.4.4 Adjoining toilet room. *Room shall meet the requirements of Section 1224.14.4.5.*

Note: In Section 1224.14.4.4, the current edition of the code erroneously cites Section 1224.14.4.5 instead of Section 1224.14.3.6. For the purposes of this CAN, the correct code section is 1224.14.3.6.

2007 California Plumbing Code**Table 4-2 Minimum Plumbing Facilities**

...

(Footnotes)

...

- 5 *The following fixtures shall be provided in airborne infection or protective environment rooms of hospitals only:*
- a. *Within an adjoining toilet room, a handwashing fixture, a shower containing a seat or a space for a shower chair, and water closet equipped with bedpan flushing attachment with a vacuum breaker.*
 - b. *A handwashing fixture within a separate anteroom.*

...

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Code Application Notice (CAN) is to clarify the number and location of handwashing fixtures and lavatories required for an Airborne Infection Isolation Room and a Protective Environment Room.

BACKGROUND

The hospital space requirements in the 2007 CBC were created by adopting new requirements based on the 2006 *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities* published by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and merging them with existing code requirements from the 2001 CBC.

The 2007 edition is the first CBC edition requiring a handwashing fixture in patient rooms within the nursing service space of a hospital. The requirement for a handwashing fixture in the anteroom of an Airborne Isolation Room and in the anteroom of a Protective Environment Room remained the same in the 2007 CBC as in the 2001 edition. To merge new code requirements with existing code requirements, OSHPD reorganized and renumbered the entire hospital space requirement section. The reorganization created unclear code requirements for the number of handwashing fixtures in Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms and Protective Environment Rooms.

The purpose of Table 4-2 of the 2007 California Plumbing Code (CPC) is to indicate in tabular form the exact same health facility plumbing fixture requirements specified in the 2007 CBC. Footnote 5 in the table contradicts the CBC. The CBC states that a lavatory is required in the toilet room adjoining an Airborne Infection Isolation Room or a Protective Environment Room. The CPC states a handwashing fixture is required.

INTERPRETATION

Handwashing Fixture

The intent of the 2007 CBC is to require one handwashing fixture in only the anterooms of an Airborne Infection Isolation Room and a Protective Environment Room – not in both the anteroom and the patient room. For the purposes of this CAN, OSHPD will allow one handwashing fixture in either the anteroom or the patient room as meeting the intent of the code.

Lavatory

The intent of the codes is to require a lavatory in the toilet room adjoining an Airborne Isolation Room or a Protective Environment Room. For the purpose of this CAN, OSHPD will require a lavatory in the toilet room adjoining an Airborne Isolation Room or a Protective Environment Room.

Original Signed

4/21/09

Paul Coleman

Date