



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

SDG 02-TN02

Sanitary Facilities – Amendments due to Part M
2022 and Changing Places Toilets

Design Guidance Technical Note 02

Prepared by The Planning & Building Unit,
Department of Education & Skills
Tullamore, Co. Offaly. R35 Y2N5

<https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/department-of-education/>

1. Background & Introduction

- 1.1 This Design Guidance Technical Note is provided as an Addendum to the Department of Education School Design Guide SDG 02-06 Sanitary Facilities published in November 2021, to update and clarify specific amendments to the design guidance arising from the publication of the latest Technical Guidance Document M – Access and Use 2022 published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- 1.2 In particular in relation to the new requirement for the provision of Changing Places Toilets as defined in Technical Guidance Document M – Access and Use 2022, in all new school buildings (primary, secondary or special schools) with a relevant floor area greater than 1,000 m².
- 1.3 This Design Guidance Technical Note is to be read in conjunction with all other School Design Guidance (SDG) and Technical Guidance Documents (TGD) published by the Department of Education.
- 1.4 Transitional Arrangements. In general, the requirements of Technical Guidance Document M – Access and Use 2022 applies to works, or to a building in which a material change of use takes place, where the works commence or change of use take place on or after 1 January 2024.

Technical Guidance Document M – Access and Use, dated 2010 can continue to be used in the case of works, or buildings where –

- (a) The works commence or certain change of use takes place on or before 31 December 2023, or
- (b) The works, or buildings are the subject of a planning application made on or before 31 December 2023, or
- (c) A fire safety certificate or a disability access certificate under the Building Control Regulations in respect of the works or buildings, has been granted on or before 31 December 2023,

and where the structure of the external walls of the building has been erected by 31 December 2025.

- 1.5 For further advice on these or any other matter, please contact:
The Planning & Building Unit
Department of Education,
Portlaoise Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, R35 Y2N5 Ireland
Telephone: 00 353 (0)57 932 4300
E-mail: info@education.gov.ie
Web: <https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/department-of-education/>

2. Addendum Updates & Clarifications of Technical & Design Guidance in SDG 02-06 Sanitary Facilities

- 2.1 Sanitary facilities in all new school buildings should be provided in accordance with Technical Guidance Document M – Access and Use 2022 published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The document may be found at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/78e67-technical-guidance-document-m-access-and-use/#current-edition>
- 2.2 A Changing Places Toilet as defined and illustrated in Technical Guidance Document M – Access and Use 2022, should be provided in all new school buildings (primary, secondary or special schools) with a relevant floor area greater than 1,000m².
- 2.3 A ‘Changing Places Toilet’ means an accessible sanitary facility with a toilet, hoist, basin, adult-sized changing bench and shower, with adequate space for use by persons with a range of abilities who may require assistance. Please note that the optional shower as shown in the Changing Places Toilet General Arrangement Layout in Technical Guidance Document M – Access and Use 2022 is to be provided in all school projects where a changing places toilet is required.
- 2.4 Refer to Technical Guidance Document M – Access and Use 2022, section 1.4.10 and Diagrams 26, 27(a), 27(b) and 27(c) for the description, minimum room dimensions (4200mm x 3000mm) and layout of a Changing Places Toilet.
- 2.5 Refer to Technical Guidance Document M – Access and Use 2022, section 1.3.3.3 and Diagrams 12 for dimensions and space allowances for corridors with particular reference to the minimum clear space required where a door to an accessible WC, or changing places toilet, opens towards a corridor.
- 2.6 Designers should ensure that special care is taken when specifying equipment and sanitary appliances within a Changing Places Toilet that these are compatible with the minimum clear circulation spaces required within the room as illustrated in the diagrams referred to in 2.4 above.

Primary Schools

- 2.7 A Changing Places Toilet should be provided at ground floor level in primary school buildings adjacent to the General Purpose Room and be accessible for use when the General Purpose Hall is in use outside of normal school hours.
- 2.8 In addition to the provision of the Changing Places Toilet at ground floor, at least one wheelchair accessible unisex WC (in compliance with TGD Part M - Diagram 15a or 15b, 16 and 17 with minimum room dimensions of 1800 mm x 2500 mm) per floor should be provided in primary school buildings. The travel distance to this wheelchair accessible unisex WC should be minimised (maximum of 40m from the toilet door to

classroom door). If as a result of the school's layout the maximum travel distance cannot be complied with then additional wheelchair accessible unisex WCs should be provided.

(Note: This replaces the previous requirement in section 6.1 (j) of SDG 02-06 for at least one Toilet/Shower for Assisted Users per floor in primary school buildings).

Post Primary Schools

- 2.9 A Changing Places Toilet should be provided at ground floor level in post primary school buildings adjacent to the General Purpose/ Dining Area.

(Note: This replaces the previous requirement in section 6.2 (d) of SDG 02-06 for a Toilet/Shower for Assisted Users at this location adjacent to the General Purpose/ Dining Area).

- 2.10 This centrally located Changing Places Toilet should be accessible for use by the pupils, staff and visitors during school hours, and for after hours activities.

- 2.11 A Toilet/Shower for Assisted Users as previously required by section 6.2 (d) of SDG 02-06 should continue to be provided adjacent to the Changing Rooms in a Multi- Use/ Physical Education (PE) Hall. The layout of this room should be as illustrated in SDG 02-06 (figures 5,6 & 7) but modified with the minimum room dimensions increased from the current 3.5m x 2.95m to 4.2m x 3m. This is to allow for a possible modified future fit out of this room as a full Changing Places Toilet.

- 2.12 Where there is WC facilities provided in post primary school buildings at different locations, at least one wheelchair accessible unisex WC (in compliance with TGD Part M - Diagram 15a or 15b, 16 and 17 with minimum room dimensions of 1800 mm x 2500 mm) should be provided at each location.

(Note: This replaces the previous requirement in section 6.2 (d) of SDG 02-06 for at least one Toilet/Shower for Assisted Users per floor in post-primary school buildings).

Specialist Accommodation for Pupils with Special Educational Needs

- 2.13 A Changing Places Toilet should be provided at ground floor level in special school buildings adjacent to the General Purpose Room and be accessible for use when the General Purpose Hall is in use outside of normal school hours. Toilets and hygiene facilities in special schools should be provided in accordance with the specific project brief and purpose designed to suit the needs of end users.

- 2.14 Toilets and shower areas in the SEN accommodation in primary and post-primary schools should be provided in accordance with School Design Guide SDG-02-04 Primary & Post Primary School Specialist Accommodation for Pupils with Special Educational Needs.

3. Application of TGD Part M for extensions to existing school buildings

- 3.1 In accordance with TGD Part M4, where sanitary facilities are provided in a building, or in a building that is to be extended, adequate provision shall be made for people to access and use a changing places toilet, having regard to the use and size of the building.
- 3.2 As per TGD Part M Section 0.6 Application of Part M, at least one changing places toilet should be provided when an existing school building is extended by more than 25% of the floor area and the combined floor area of the existing school building and the new extension is greater than 1,000m².



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