

# Maintaining safety standards in public facilities during the Covid-19 pandemic

## Overview

The British Toilet Association is a not-for-profit members organization dedicated to promoting the highest levels of cleanliness, provision and hygiene in public toilets across the UK. As part of its services, the British Toilet Association conducts surveys and offers consultation to ensure sanitary facilities are properly built and managed.

### The British Toilet Association used standards to:



Ensure public toilets could remain open and safe during the pandemic



Enhance the cleanliness of public toilets across the nation



Support local government in providing accessible and inclusive sanitary facilities

## The challenge

Prior to the pandemic, the British Toilet Association's services were primarily concerned with the provision of public toilets. When the national lockdown was introduced and local amenities, including public toilets, were closed down, its attention turned to increasing the levels and standards of hygiene as concerns about public health grew.

There was mounting pressure for sanitary facilities to reopen not only for general use but so that individuals could wash their hands regularly and prevent the spread of germs. However, councils were concerned that in such confined space and with numerous touchpoints for cross-contamination, this could lead to further spreading of the virus.

In order to meet the needs of the public whilst still keeping them safe, local governments would need to ensure and demonstrate high levels of cleanliness to instil public confidence. Without statutory regulations in place to govern this, other guidelines would need to be referenced to make sure public toilets were cleaned and maintained correctly.

## Solved with standards

Using standards has enabled the British Toilet Association to provide its clients with high-quality consultation, reflective of the most up-to-date industry best practice. In particular, [BS 6465](#) and [BS 8300](#) have helped the British Toilet Association to properly assess the suitability and cleanliness of 'away from home' facilities. This has increased the overall level of hygiene in public restrooms and, as a result, meant public toilets could reopen safely during, and immediately following the pandemic.

For Managing Director, Raymond Martin, in the absence of statutory regulations, BS Standards have set the benchmark for public sanitary facilities. As a member of the BS 6465 Committee, the British Toilet Association plays a large role in revising standards relating to public toilets and shaping a better future for users.

In 2020, the British Toilet Association won a Standards User Award for supporting government and local authorities with advice and guidance about standards to ensure public toilets could remain open and safe for all users during the pandemic.



## Standards implemented by The British Toilet Association

**BS 6465, Parts 1-4:** This set of standards offer guidance on the design of sanitary facilities, including the recommended scale and positioning of appliances in new and refurbished buildings.

**BS 8300-1/2:** These standards ensure external built environments, such as public toilets, are designed to be accessible and inclusive. This ensures that these buildings are able to accommodate all users, no matter their characteristics or capabilities.



## Setting the standard for success

### Standards enable you to:



Access quality information in any particular area or on a specific subject – especially valuable for SMEs which don't always have the resources of larger organizations.



Ensure you're following the best practice for your industry. It's faster and more cost-effective to demonstrate compliance with recognized standards.



Give consumers and other stakeholders confidence in your products and services by setting the benchmark for quality, safety and many other areas.

### Raymond Martin

Managing Director of The British Toilet Association



Whilst there's no direct statutory legislation [surrounding public toilets], BS standards have almost become the legal guideline. They are the definitive guidance documents to how publicly accessible toilets should be designed, built, maintained and provided."



See what BSI standards can do for your business

For more information on how standards can help your business, [contact us](#).  
Find out how we've helped other organizations with their business challenges [here](#).