

Construction Codes & Licensing Division
Code Interpretation

Inquiry: 2016 -01
Subject: Use and Identification of Toilet rooms
Code: Chapter 29 of the 2015 Minnesota Building Code
Issued: December 2016
Approved: Scott McLellan, State Building Official

Question:

Are separate toilet facilities (rooms) required for each sex?

Answer:

According to section 2902.2, separate toilet facilities must be provided for both men and women. There are three exceptions:

1. All spaces having a calculated occupant load of 20 or less
2. Retail spaces having a calculated occupant load of 100 or less
3. When only one toilet is required for each sex, two family/assisted-use toilet facilities are permitted in lieu of providing separate toilet facilities for both men and women.

Question:

Could the intent of section 2902.2 be met if multiple single-user toilet rooms that were usable by either sex were constructed in lieu of separate facilities for both men and women?

Answer:

The intent of this section is to provide safety and privacy for both men and women when using toilet facilities. Therefore, constructing multiple separate single-user toilet rooms would be a reasonable approach to an "alternate design" provided the number of single-user toilet rooms equals the number of toilets and sinks required by section 2902.

Question:

Are toilet rooms required to have signs that identify the rooms as either male or female?

Answer:

When separate public toilet facilities are required for each sex, they must be designated by a sign for each sex in accordance with section 2902.4. When separate toilet facilities for men and women are not provided, single-user and family/assisted-use toilet facilities are not required to have any particular identifying signage.