

Equality Act 2010 and Washroom Refurbishment

Guidance on Accessibility Requirements for Toilet Facilities

What the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and Equality Act 2010 Mean for Washroom Refurbishment

When upgrading or refurbishing washrooms and toilet facilities in commercial or public buildings, accessibility must sit at the heart of every decision. The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA)—now incorporated into the Equality Act 2010—sets out clear legal obligations around inclusive design.

At SR Industrial Ltd, we specialise in creating compliant, user-friendly washrooms that meet these legal standards while delivering a modern and practical finish. In this article, we break down what you need to know about these acts in the context of washroom refurbishment projects.

A Quick Overview of the Legislation

- The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA) was introduced to protect individuals with disabilities from discrimination in everyday life, including access to facilities in buildings.
- The Equality Act 2010 replaced and built upon the DDA, combining several anti-discrimination laws into one cohesive framework. It legally requires organisations to make “reasonable adjustments” to prevent disabled users from being placed at a disadvantage.

When refurbishing washroom facilities, this means actively removing barriers that could restrict independent use.

Key Requirements for Accessible Washrooms

To comply with the Equality Act 2010 during refurbishment works, facilities must be:

1. Easily Accessible

- Doorways must be wide enough for wheelchair entry.
- Corridors and cubicle access must provide enough turning space.

2. Equipped with Support Features

- Grab rails installed around the toilet and basin.
- Backrests for WCs.
- Alarm systems for emergencies (e.g., pull cords with clear signage).

3. User-Friendly

- Low-level or lever-operated taps.
- Hand dryers and dispensers positioned at accessible heights.
- Contrasting colours to assist visually impaired users.

4. Safe and Navigable

- Slip-resistant flooring.
- Good lighting and tactile signage.
- Clear layout with appropriate signage and visual cues.

Why Compliance Is Essential During Refurbishment

Refurbishing existing washrooms offers an ideal opportunity to bring your facilities up to modern accessibility standards. If your current setup does not meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, a refurbishment project could fall short of legal compliance and expose your organisation to risk.

It's not just about avoiding penalties—it's about creating a better environment for your team, visitors, and customers.

Who Needs to Consider This?

Anyone responsible for the management or refurbishment of:

- Offices and commercial premises
- Retail environments
- Schools and nurseries
- Medical or care facilities
- Public service buildings (e.g. libraries, community centres)
- Leisure venues and hospitality sites

Whether you're starting from scratch or updating older facilities, accessibility must be integrated from the planning stage.

How SR Industrial Ltd Supports Accessible Refurbishment


With over 30 years' experience, SR Industrial Ltd works with clients across Berkshire, Surrey and West London to deliver fully accessible washroom refurbishments that meet both the spirit and the letter of the law.


We manage:


- Site surveys and compliance checks
- Full refurbishment planning and layout design
- Installation of compliant fixtures and fittings
- Finishing works to the highest standard

Contact Us

Want to find out if your facilities meet the latest standards?

 Call: 01344 860145

 Email: srogers@srindustrial.co.uk

 Visit: www.srindustrial.co.uk

Let's make your next refurbishment legally compliant, inclusive, and built to last.

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