

Portable sanitary pans for use in healthcare establishments —

Part 1: Specification for reusable bed pans

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Health Care Standards Policy Committee (HCC/-) to Technical Committee HCC/21, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association of Clinical Pathologists
- Association of Sterilizer and Disinfector Equipment Manufacturers
- British Glass Manufacturers' Confederation
- British Laboratory Ware Association
- British Plastics Federation
- Central Sterilising Club
- Department of Health
- Healthcare Sanitary Systems Association
- Hospital Infection Society
- Independent Healthcare Association
- Infection Control Nurses Association
- Institute of Hospital Engineering
- Institute of Sterile Services Management
- Joint Committee of Professional Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Associations (England)
- National Health Services
- National Health Service Regional Engineers' Association
- Queen's Nursing Institute
- Royal College of Midwives
- Royal College of Nursing
- Royal College of Pathologists
- Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
- Scottish Health Services

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Health Care Standards Policy Committee, was published under the authority of the Standards Board and comes into effect on 28 February 1992

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Foreword

This Part of BS 2588, which has been prepared under the direction of the Health Care Standards Policy Committee, supersedes BS 2588:1955 which is withdrawn.

The first edition of BS 2588 was prepared at the request of the Hospital Equipment Standards Advisory Committee of the British Standards Institution. In that edition, the adult size Perfection¹⁾ type of bed pan was specified in the materials stainless steel, aluminium, vitreous-enamelled steel and tinned steel.

At that time great importance was placed on the experience of hospitals throughout the country and the final design was based upon the evidence gained by comparative tests with bed pans of varying form and dimensions carried out with the co-operation of the nursing staff of a number of organizations. This evidence included the general effectiveness and essential anthropometric dimensions affecting the comfort of the patient, handling by the staff, cleaning and subsequent disinfection and/or sterilization. The essential dimensions were defined and at the same time manufacturer's tolerances and variations in design were considered as far as practicable.

The design criteria established in the 1955 edition of BS 2588 have become generally accepted such that bed pans complying with the standard are compatible with bed pan washers specified by BS 2745 and with mobile sanitary chairs specified by BS 4751. However, there had been criticism of the first edition of this standard because it was specific to the "Perfection" design and, hence, in this revision the out-dated design and material specification for "Perfection" type bed pans has been replaced by performance criteria in order to allow for greater flexibility in the design and manufacture of portable bed pans.

Current evidence has indicated that the major proportion of "bed pans" were used in commode chairs and not by patients in bed. For this reason BS 2588 now refers to and is applicable to "portable sanitary pans" and is published in two Parts. This Part specifies the requirements for three types of bed pan: type 1 for adults; type 2 for infants and children with a body mass not exceeding 25 kg; and type 3 for "slipper" pans which are designed to slide under supine patients. Part 2 specifies portable sanitary pans for use in commode chairs.

NOTE A Type 1 bed pan specified in this Part of BS 2588 may be used in commode chairs provided that it also meets the requirements of Part 2.

Two grades of bed pan are specified. Grade A pans, which are capable of withstanding heat sterilization at 134 °C, are specified for those who need a sterilizable pan; grade B pans, which will withstand heat disinfection at 100 °C, are satisfactory for most purposes.

This Part of BS 2588 specifies performance and marking requirements. It also specifies the surface finish as the quality of finish is of particular importance from the standpoint of ease of cleaning and disinfection and of resistance to corrosion.

The Committee preparing this standard was aware that the seat of the bed pan should not damage the patient's skin and this is referred to in note 1 to clause 5. However, no appropriate objective test procedure was available to assess this quality.

It has been assumed in the drafting of this standard that the tests for assessing compliance will be carried out by those who are appropriately qualified or under the supervision of experienced personnel.

If the quality of a product can be assured only by in-process control, the user of this standard may wish to consider product certification. Where in-process quality control is not appropriate the user of this standard may wish to consider assessed capability.

¹⁾ "Perfection" is a term widely recognized by the industry concerned to indicate a specific shape of bed pan.

Product certification. Users of this British Standard are advised to consider the desirability of third party certification for product conformity with this British Standard, based on testing and continuing surveillance which may be coupled with assessment of a supplier's quality systems against the appropriate Part of BS 5750.

Enquiries as to the availability of third party certification schemes will be forwarded by BSI to the Association of Certification Bodies. If a third party certification scheme does not already exist, users should consider approaching an appropriate body from the list of Association members.

Assessed capability. Users of this British Standard may wish to consider the desirability of assessment and registration of a supplier's quality systems against the appropriate Part of BS 5750 by a third party certification body.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

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This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.