



**BSI Standards Publication**

## **Guidelines for the management of mobile toilets under epidemic situations**

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## National foreword

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CB/503, Drinking water and wastewater service levels.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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**ISO 24599**

# **Guidelines for the management of mobile toilets under epidemic situations**

*Lignes directrices relatives à la gestion des toilettes mobiles dans  
les situations d'épidémie*

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## Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 224, *Drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems and services*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

In recent years, public epidemic emergencies (PEEs), especially viral infectious diseases, have occurred frequently around the world, existing as a significant threat to the global healthcare systems and economy. Generally, PEEs are characterized by their sudden occurrence, diverse causes and distribution, and rapid transmission. It is often difficult for medical facilities and services to meet the timely treatment needs of infected or suspected cases in time, especially in developing countries with large populations and limited medical facilities and services. Deaths and adverse health outcomes caused by frequent public epidemic emergencies are also barriers to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>[11]</sup>

Many infectious diseases, such as H5N1 flu, SARS and COVID-19, have a strong tendency to spread from person to person through various pathways, e.g. aerosol droplet transmission, direct contact, and the faecal-oral route. Limiting contact between people and pathogens is a key component of epidemic control.<sup>[12]</sup>

A PEE can either be a consequence or a cause of a crisis, affecting water services involving a partial or total breakdown of sanitation services.

In certain cases of epidemic, the existing sanitation service can be overwhelmed in terms of collection capacity (field hospitals, temporary treatment facilities, temporary settlements, etc.), and alternative solutions are needed.

The collection and safe disposal of faeces and sanitary wastewater are of paramount importance considering the risk to public health. In case of major disruption or rupture, alternative service is necessary.

Since the outbreak of PEEs is difficult to control, the rapid response of supporting facilities, including the provision of mobile toilets, can help prevent the further spread of pathogens.

To reduce the potential of faecal oral transmission, more attention should be given to the provision of mobile toilets in quarantine areas and “mobile cabin hospitals”. Hence, guidelines and instructions should be established governing the management of mobile sanitation facilities and emergency portable toilet provisions under PEEs.

Developing and implementing this guideline can:

- reduce the risk of the potential faecal-oral transmission of pathogens;
- improve the safety of toilet users and operators;
- promote the design and installation efficiency of emergency mobile toilets;
- improve the rapid mechanism for the deployment of mobile toilets in case of PEEs.