

VISITSCOTLAND QUALITY STANDARD

CRITERIA FOR BUNKHOUSE CLASSIFICATION



Criteria for Bunkhouse Classification

INTRODUCTION

The following criteria will have to be met by establishments wishing to use the classification 'BUNKHOUSE'

Definition:

'Rural accommodation which can be booked by groups or individuals. Services and facilities may be limited but will include a self-catering facility. Bunkhouses are not star rated but will meet or exceed minimum standards for cleanliness, maintenance and quality.'

Code of Conduct

All participants are required to observe the VisitScotland Code of Conduct.

STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

Fulfilment of all statutory obligations, where applicable, including but not limited to those relating to:

- **Safety**
 - Health & Safety at Work
 - Fire, Gas & Electrical Safety
 - Electrical Appliance Testing
 - Product Safety
- **Bunk bed regulations**
 - British Standards applying to items such as cots, high chairs and play pens.
- **Premises**
 - Planning Permission
 - Private Water Supplies
 - Housing
 - TV Licensing
- **Discrimination**
 - Sex Discrimination
 - Race Discrimination
 - Disability Discrimination
- **Records**
 - Data Protection
 - Immigration Hotel Records
 - Consumer Protection
- **Trade Descriptions**
 - Advertising
 - Pricing
 - Unfair Contract Terms

Proprietors will also be asked to provide evidence that Public Liability Cover is being maintained and to provide a signed confirmation, at application and renewal of participation, that the above requirements are being fulfilled.

GENERAL FACILITIES

1. Hot & cold running water to be available.
2. Electricity supply provided (Exception may be made at the discretion of VisitScotland where properties are remote and have restricted or no mains services)
3. All public areas/bathrooms/bedrooms are to be adequately lit for safety.
4. Adequate heating should be provided, as a minimum, in the public areas.
5. Self-catering facilities will be provided.
6. A first aid kit to be available and maintained.
7. Details of means to summon assistance, day or night, in the event of an emergency must be provided and clearly displayed to guests (e.g. staff/proprietor, doctor, dentist etc.) Emergency services callout i.e. 999) to be detailed.
8. Provision for hanging wet outdoor clothing to be available.
9. Reasonable provision for securing the building internally and externally should be available.
10. All areas to be adequately maintained.
11. A high standard of cleanliness to be maintained throughout the property

Bedrooms/Sleeping Areas

12. Bedrooms or sleeping areas to be physically separated from kitchen/dining/public areas.
13. All sleeping areas to have at least one external window supplying ventilation & natural light. Curtain, blind or equivalent to be provided.
14. A minimum floor space per bed or bunk space of 4 square metres (44 square feet) to be provided. This area will be calculated on the basis of the maximum dimensions of the room divided by the number of bed bases in the room. Bed bases will be totalled as below:

Bunk bed - 1	Double bed - 2
Single bed - 1	Alpine platforms - 1 per (min. 6' x 2'6") bedspace

The impact of furniture (lockers, bedside tables etc.) will not be considered in this calculation.

15. All sleeping provision must be in beds, bunks or alpine platforms and must be a minimum size of 6' x 2'6" or equivalent per person in respect of platforms. Beds and bunks to be provided with mattresses. Sleeping mat foam is acceptable on alpine platforms.
16. If bed linen is provided or sheet sleeping bags are provided, one pillow and adequate blankets or duvet to be available, either free or for hire, for each guest. If this cannot be provided, guests must be informed at the time of booking and the fact clearly stated on brochures.
17. Adequate rucksack storage space to be provided in all sleeping areas. This may, as a minimum, be provided by sufficient free floor space or under bed/bunk space.

Kitchen/Dining Area

(Kitchen, dining and lounge areas may be 'open plan' or separate rooms. If these facilities are provided in an 'open plan' format it should be sufficiently spacious to enable all guests' reasonable use at the same time.)

18. The kitchen should be of an adequate size to allow for a reasonable proportion of the guest capacity to prepare and cook meals at one time. Minimum cooking facilities/equipment to be available as listed:
 - Hygienic food storage/preparation area/cooking equipment & sink area with hot and cold running water to be provided.
 - A minimum of 4 cooking rings to be provided. Where the total number of bedspaces exceeds 32 an additional cooking ring is to be provided for every further 8 bedspaces. i.e.:
32 beds: 4 cooking rings.
40 beds: 5 cooking rings.
48 beds: 6 cooking rings.
56 beds: 7 cooking rings. etc.
 - Adequate refrigerated food storage space to be available.
 - Kitchen to be properly equipped with an adequate number of utensils (pots, pans, food preparation knives etc.)
19. Dining area with appropriate furniture available. There should be adequate facilities (furniture, crockery, cutlery etc.) for at least 20% guest capacity to eat at the same time. This should be increased to enable all guests to eat together if group bookings are accepted.
20. A smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector to be installed and maintained in a fully operational condition where appropriate; main cooking areas.
21. A fire extinguisher and/or blanket suitable for kitchen fires to be provided.
22. A covered waste disposal bin and liners provided, with recycling include where possible.

Bathroom

23. Shower, WC and washbasins to be provided at a minimum ratio of one each for every 20 bedspaces. (Exception to this minimum requirement may be made at the discretion of VisitScotland in respect of remote properties with restricted/no mains services)
24. All WC's to be provided with toilet paper and (where appropriate), sanitary disposal bags and bins.
25. There must be privacy between sexes for washing/shower facilities.

SUSTAINABILITY AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

Recognising the business benefits of operating in a sustainable way **we have included sustainability actions as a minimum standard in all our Quality Assurance schemes since autumn 2014.**

Hostels and Bunkhouses will be required to undertake a minimum number of sustainability actions, recognising that a very high proportion of businesses are already achieving a minimum level and indeed exceeding the minimum requirements- current requirements are detailed on the QA reports, unless the business is already engaging with Green Tourism and are therefore exempt from QA requirements.

Please note that it will be taken into account if certain aspects of the business (e.g. the nature of the building, set up, or location) do not allow for certain actions to be undertaken.

It is important to note that the number of sustainability actions undertaken will not affect your quality grading in any way. Our focus has been, and will continue to be, on providing advice and support on sustainability actions and the benefits of becoming more sustainable.

For more details and a list of the sustainability actions that will be reviewed, please see our current [sustainability actions for hostels](#) on visitscotland.org.

For more information on actions you could undertake, case studies, and further advice and support please see VisitScotland's [Sustainable Tourism web pages](#).