

ACCS Scheme Members update

COVID-19: Building Standards Information and Guidance to Scottish Local Authorities
Notification from the Scottish Government 23rd March 2020

The Building (Scotland) Act 2003

Special measures to enable the occupation of new buildings as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak – Guidance on building standards compliance and enforcement

The Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 Regulation 3 Schedule 1.

Special measures to enable the erection of temporary care assistance buildings as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak

The Scottish Government have written to all Local Authority Chief Executives asking that all building standard verifiers work with local health boards and other organisations throughout the country to allow the erection of required temporary buildings as a matter of urgency and without unnecessary delay.

It goes on to state that any such temporary change of use of existing buildings to provide health care facilities will not be regarded as a 'conversion' and will also be exempt of requiring a building warrant.

The Scottish Government are also asking verifiers to take a more flexible approach regarding these buildings.

This means that any work carried out to provide these buildings must still comply with the current Technical Standards, even though there is no requirement for a building warrant. Every health board will still appoint design professionals to ensure that these buildings will meet the required fire, escape, ventilation and plumbing and heating regulations as before.

Some health boards may also set their own standards.

The Local Authority verifiers will also be available to offer professional advice if required.

This is not a formal change in the regulations but it is a temporary measure to ensure we have adequate facilities to meet the demand in this current climate.

If you are required to carry out any work regarding the above the ACCS rules and regulations still apply.