

HUT SERVICE STANDARDS

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Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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Introduction

1.1 Scope

These standards set out the level of service to be provided at all backcountry huts open to visitors on lands managed by the Department of Conservation. They provide management with a comprehensive framework for managing huts, and, through various forms of information, provide hut users with a clear picture of the level of service they can expect to find at all backcountry huts.

1.2 Review

The Hut Service Standards were first approved in January 1999. Since that time all visitor huts have had a baseline inspection and all have been assessed against the service standards. The standards have been reviewed to ensure that they remain current and take account of all that has been learnt about huts and what hut users need since 1999. The review began in 2002 with DOC conservancies and area offices suggesting changes. This was followed by a workshop of user group representatives and DOC staff. This revised document was then prepared by Central Regional Office.

1.3 Coverage

These service standards cover all backcountry huts and associated toilets open to visitors on lands managed by DOC. "Hut" is defined as a fully enclosed building that has as its principal purpose providing overnight sleeping accommodation for users of the backcountry. Not covered are campsites and shelters, booked front-country accommodation (ie accessible by vehicle), and education lodges. These will be covered by separate service standards. Also not covered are temporary backcountry huts used by staff only, wardens quarters and other backcountry huts used by staff only (these are not generally open to visitors).

Open (unlocked) huts owned by clubs and other organisations on lands managed by the Department are also required to meet these service standards.

1.4 Hut Procurement Manual

The Department's Hut Procurement Manual for building backcountry huts was approved as a standard operating procedure in June 2003. This sets out the process to be followed by the Department in building a new visitor hut. It also contains base designs and detailed specifications for new huts from 4 to 32 bunks. The procurement manual and these service standards are complementary. The manual specifies the design options and sets out specifications for all parts of the hut, from the building materials to be used to the size and design of most things in it. The service standards specify, for each category of hut, what facilities and services must, or must not be provided.

1.5 Visitor Strategy

These service standards have their origins in the Department's 1996 Visitor Strategy and are a step towards implementing the strategy. The Visitor Strategy makes the following statements that set the parameters for service standards for huts by visitor group:

Backcountry Comfort Seekers (BCC) – "the priority is...on providing them with safe facilities...and a degree of comfort in camping and hut facilities"

"BCC [seek] a low risk, comfortable experience."

"Seek...daily track condition information from hut wardens."

Backcountry Adventurers (BCA) - "... accept a degree of risk and discomfort".

"Require only basic facilities maintained to appropriate standards (eg huts ...)."

"Facilities that aid visitor safety and provide a basic degree of comfort will continue to be provided (eg ... category 3 or 4 huts ...)."

Remoteness Seekers (RS) – "Natural setting (remote...). Contains few or no facilities."

1.6 Predominant Visitor Group

The three visitor groups that backcountry huts cater for are Backcountry Comfort Seekers (BCC), Backcountry Adventurers (BCA) and Remoteness Seekers (RS). Remoteness Seekers require only very basic hut facilities.

Some backcountry huts are used by day visitors as a lunch/shelter stop. Such day visitors at most only require basic shelter, toilets and water supply. Day visitors are not regarded as “drivers” (in other words, the day visitor group does not drive standards for huts). This is because they require the same or fewer facilities than the backcountry groups using the hut. Day visitors, therefore, accept the standards they encounter at backcountry huts.

For tracks, it is the predominant visitor group using the track that determines which service standard applies to that track. For huts, where the predominant visitor group of the site on which the hut is located is BCA, the service standard for the hut will be that for BCA. Where the predominant visitor group is BCC, the service standard for the hut will be that for BCC. Where the predominant visitor group is DV, however, and there are BCC and BCA using the hut or huts as well, the relative numbers of BCA and BCC will generally determine whether the BCC or the BCA service standard applies.

On some tracks, there is a distinct winter season when the weather and snow conditions are such that the track is not suitable for use by visitors with limited backcountry experience. On these tracks, the predominant visitor group changes from BCC or DV to BCA. Huts on these tracks should be managed for BCA in the winter or off-season and BCC during the peak or summer season.

1.7 Hut Categories

The service standards have been derived from the broad statements in the Visitor Strategy about the relevant visitor groups and the facilities and services they require. The Visitor Strategy makes a distinction between Great Walks and what it calls “top tracks” within the BCC group (see Appendix 1 for a definition of Great Walk). The track service standards for BCC tracks recognise this distinction, with Great Walk tracks having higher standards than Easy Tramping Tracks. The hut service standards also split the BCC group into Great Walk huts and Serviced huts.

There are three categories of hut catering for the backcountry adventurer group. They are Serviced, Standard and Basic huts. Basic huts may also cater for Remoteness Seekers. In total, there are four categories of hut as follows:

- Great Walks (catering for BCC)
- Serviced and Serviced-Alpine (catering for BCC or BCA)
- Standard (catering for BCA)
- Basic (catering for BCA or RS)

The Serviced huts that cater for BCA visitors are generally huts that receive high use and cater for the less experienced BCA visitors. Also included in this category are the larger or more heavily used alpine huts used by climbers in Mt Cook, Westland and Mt Aspiring national parks. These huts are categorised as “Serviced-Alpine”; they cater for BCA visitors but their alpine location and function as a base for climbers means that there are some differences in standards needed to distinguish them from other serviced huts.

Standard huts are the most common huts in the backcountry and the huts most BCA visitors expect to use. Basic huts are those providing overnight shelter, somewhere to cook and sleep, and little else. These include all bivvies (see Appendix 1 for a definition of bivvy). Huts that are in such a poor condition that they do not meet the standards for Basic huts will be described as “dilapidated” and will need to be removed, or brought up to the minimum standard for Basic huts.

The key words in the Visitor Strategy describing what BCC visitors expect the Department to provide in Great Walk and Serviced huts are “quality” and “comfortable”. Put in the context of the accommodation industry throughout New Zealand, however, the Department’s BCC huts are at the spartan end of the accommodation spectrum. Visitors wanting greater comfort and more services in the backcountry need

to look beyond the Department's huts to concessionaires such as those operating on the Milford and Routeburn tracks, or to walks operating on private land.

The key words in the Visitor Strategy describing what Backcountry Adventurers and Remoteness Seekers expect the Department to provide in most BCA huts and all RS huts are "basic facilities". The Department manages these huts essentially to facilitate backcountry recreation and reduce visitor impacts on the environment. It does this by providing basic shelter. The service levels for Basic huts in particular should not, therefore, include facilities or services purely for visitor comfort. Facilities in these huts should be based on providing visitors with safe, healthy accommodation and ensuring that the environment surrounding the hut is protected.

1.8 Meaning of Key Words

In this document, the key words below have the following meaning:

- **Shall** means there is no choice, the clause is mandatory
- **Should** means that the clause is desirable, but not compulsory
- **May** means that there is a choice and the clause is optional

Service Standards – Detail

2. Great Walk Huts (BCC)

The following standards shall apply to Great Walk huts.

2.1 Hut Condition/Site Location

2.1.1 *State of repair*

The hut shall be weatherproof and in a reasonable state of repair. In particular:

- The hut and its building elements (including walls, floor and roof) shall have a low probability of rupturing, becoming unstable or collapsing in the period between inspections.
- The hut and its building elements shall not show signs of significant deterioration that would threaten its structural stability in the period between inspections.
- The hut's walls, floor, roof, windows and doors shall be in a condition that will ensure adequate resistance to penetration by, and the accumulation of, moisture from the outside in the period between inspections.
- The hut shall be in a condition that prevents surface water from entering the hut in the period between inspections.
- There shall be no impediment (such as jammed doors or windows) to making a quick exit from the hut in the case of fire or similar emergency.
- The hut shall be in a condition that would prevent infestations of pests and vermin (such as fleas, bed bugs, rats and mice) inside the building.

2.1.2 *Natural Hazards*

The hut and toilet should be sited in a location where there is a very low probability of it sustaining serious damage or being destroyed due to natural hazards (eg slips, rock fall, wind, tree fall, avalanche, flooding). A geological and avalanche hazard desk-top and hazard rating assessment, and regular inspections of the hut by staff, shall be used to determine what a "very low probability" means for the hut.¹

2.2 Hut Design/Size

2.2.1 *Maximum Size*

- For new huts, and extensions and upgrades of existing huts, maximum size shall be a sleeping capacity of 60 people (including any warden's bunks).
- If an existing hut with a capacity for more than 60 people is destroyed and is to be replaced, it may be replaced to the same size as the original, at the discretion of the Regional General Manager.

2.2.2 *Design/Colour*

Design (for new huts) and colour (for all huts) shall be appropriate for the surrounding environment. For some huts, an "appropriate" colour may be a bright colour that can be clearly seen from a distance in marginal conditions for safety reasons. For other huts, where visibility is not a safety issue, an appropriate colour may be one that blends in with its surroundings.

2.2.3 *Crowding*

During the peak season, if the hut capacity is exceeded by 10% or more, over 10% of the season, management shall take action to prevent this happening the next season.

2.2.4 *Verandah/Deck*

Verandahs and decks should be provided.

¹ The current hazard and danger ratings are defined in "Geological Hazard Rating System for DOC Backcountry Huts, Feb 2000; prepared for DOC by GT Hancox", and "Avalanche Danger Rating System for DOC Backcountry Huts, Mar 2002, by Don Bogie". Note that a different avalanche hazard rating system is proposed and, if adopted, shall be used instead of the current system.

2.2.5 *Living Area per Person*

- For all huts, there should be a living area inside the hut of approximately 2 m² per person. “Living area” is the usable floor area of the hut interior, excluding sleeping platforms and bunks and separate bunkrooms.
- For new huts, or extensions to existing huts, refer to the base floor plans in the Hut Procurement Manual for specifications for living area per person.

2.2.6 *Flyscreens*

At huts where biting insects are a problem for visitors, flyscreens shall be used on opening windows to make the hut as insect proof as possible.

2.3 **Hut Environment**

2.3.1 *Rubbish*

A “pack it in, take it out” policy shall apply. No rubbish collection, on-site rubbish receptacles or rubbish holes shall be provided.

2.3.2 *Vegetation Clearance*

- Vegetation shall be kept approximately 4 metres clear of the hut to ensure there is sufficient light and air right around the building to avoid degradation of building materials due to dampness, mould and mildew.
- Vegetation shall also be cleared so that views from the hut are maintained, tree fall hazards are minimised and so that vegetation does not impede means of escape from the building.
- Clearance of vegetation around the hut as part of ongoing maintenance shall be done in a way that minimises any negative effects on the environment surrounding the hut, and cut vegetation shall be removed from view.

2.3.3 *Wasp Control*

The area immediately around the hut and toilets shall be kept clear of wasps and similar pests.

2.3.4 *Meat Safes/Dog Kennels*

Where huts are popular with hunters, meat safes and dog kennels may be provided, but they shall be located at least 50 metres away from the hut, toilets and track to the toilets.

2.4 **Sleeping Facilities**

2.4.1 *Mattresses*

Individual or platform bunks with mattresses shall be provided. All mattresses shall be fire retardant and meet the Department’s mattress standard.

2.4.2 *Sleeping Space Per Person*

- Where platform bunks are provided, sleeping capacity shall be calculated as 0.75 metres per person across the width of the platform.
- Visitor information containing sleeping capacity shall use sleeping capacity calculated in this way, but shall exclude any bunks used exclusively for wardens or staff.

2.4.3 *Safety Barriers on Bunks*

Where sleeping occurs with the body position parallel to the edge of a sleeping platform or bunk and there is a real danger of falling more than a metre by rolling off during sleep, a barrier shall be provided. The barrier shall be high enough and long enough to prevent a fall, but should not impede access onto or off the sleeping platform or bunk.

2.5 **Cooking**

2.5.1 *Cookers*

- Gas cookers and fuel may be provided. Provision of cookers is particularly desirable in huts where large numbers of inexperienced BCC visitors would otherwise have to use their own cookers. The potential for injury or fire damage in such situations can be high.

- If cookers are supplied in Great Walk huts, they must be supplied in all main huts on that track.
- The Great Walk huts with cookers are listed in Appendix 1.

2.5.2 *Cooking Bench*

- Fire resistant and hygienic cooking bench(es) shall be provided.
- Huts with a sleeping capacity of 32 or less should have 0.3 metres of cooking bench space per person. Huts with a sleeping capacity of more than 32 should have 0.24 metres of cooking bench space per person. Cooking bench space excludes the area of any sinks. The aim with the larger huts is to cater for 80% of people cooking at the same time when the hut is at capacity.
- For new huts, or extensions to existing huts, refer to the specifications in the Hut Procurement Manual for cooking bench space per person.

2.6 **Heating**

2.6.1 *Heating and Fuel*

- Heating shall be provided
- Heating fuel shall be provided
- The most cost-effective type of heating and the most cost-effective fuel for each hut shall be chosen provided that the heating and fuel have minimal negative effects on the environment.
- A cost-benefit analysis of heating and fuel options should be undertaken to demonstrate to the Regional General Manager that the most cost-effective and environmentally acceptable decision has been made.
- If wood is the fuel supplied, it must be cut to the right length, and stored in a wood store close to or attached to the hut.

2.6.2 *Axes/Saws*

Axes and/or saws should be provided where wood is the fuel supplied, and there is no warden present to maintain the fuel supply. Axes shall be kept sharp.

2.6.3 *Ash Buckets*

A metal bucket for carrying ash shall be provided where the fuel supplied is wood or coal.

2.7 **Water Supply/Ablutions**

2.7.1 *Water Supply/Sign*

- The water supply shall be a water tank (or tanks) fed from rainwater off the roof, or via piping from natural watercourses.
- Water shall be clean but does not have to be potable.
- A sign shall be put up near taps that states that in general the water is clean and able to be drunk without treatment, but users may, for their own protection, wish to boil or treat it.

2.7.2 *Sinks – Food Rinsing/Dish Washing*

- A sink or sinks within a minimum 900 mm of hygienic bench, and located inside or outside the hut shall be provided for food rinsing and utensil washing.
- The number of sinks varies depending on the size of the hut. A hut with a capacity of up to 20 people shall have one sink. A hut with a capacity of 21 to 36 people shall have two; between 37 and 48 people three, and over 48 people, four sinks.

2.7.3 *Hand Washing Sinks*

- Hand washing sinks shall be provided outside the hut or associated with the toilets.
- The number of sinks varies depending on the size of the hut. A hut with a capacity of up to 36 people shall have one sink. A hut with a capacity of 37 to 48 people shall have two sinks. A hut with a capacity of over 48 people shall have three sinks.

2.7.4 Showers/Washing Areas

- No showers shall be provided. Showers (either hot or cold) are regarded as a luxury in the Department's backcountry huts. In addition, showers require a good, reliable water supply and are difficult to keep clean and in working order.
- Screened personal washing areas may be provided outside the hut where there are unacceptable environmental impacts occurring as a result of hut users washing in or around natural watercourses or water bodies.

2.8 Toilets

2.8.1 Toilets

- A hut with a total capacity of up to 20 people shall have one toilet (ie one pan); between 21 and 36 people, two toilets (ie two pans); between 37 and 48 people, three toilets (ie three pans); over 48 people, four toilets (ie four pans). Where wardens share toilet facilities with visitors, the total capacity of the hut includes the sleeping capacity of the warden's quarters.
- All toilets shall be located outside the hut, be fully enclosed, be unisex, have a door and a toilet seat and should have a lid. All pit and containment (vault) toilets shall be vented.
- Toilets shall not be located more than 75 metres from the hut.
- Where the toilet(s) are not easily located from the hut, a direction sign to the toilet shall be provided.
- The track to the toilets shall have an even surface and shall not be wet or muddy.

2.8.2 Toilet Paper

- Toilet paper shall not be provided at all toilets except septic tank systems. Visitor information shall make it clear that users supply their own toilet paper.
- Management may choose to provide toilet paper at a hut with a septic tank and where there is concern about the material that may end up in the toilet. Users shall still be told that they need to bring toilet paper, despite any management decision to supply it.

2.9 Lighting

- Lighting may be provided (eg tilley lanterns, solar-powered), for the part of the season that lighting may be needed.
- Where such lighting is not provided, adequate numbers of candleholders shall be supplied. All new candleholders supplied shall be one of the Department's approved designs.

2.10 Safety Facilities/Notices

2.10.1 Radios

Radios may be provided, as a service to hut users, but shall only be used by wardens to provide weather forecasts and communication with emergency services.

2.10.2 First Aid Kits

First aid kits shall be provided, as a service to hut users, in wardened huts only and are for the warden only to use.

2.10.3 Fire Extinguishers/ Bucket Pumps

Fire extinguishers and/or bucket pumps may be provided for use by hut users to respond to minor fires such as small flare ups on cooking benches.

2.10.4 Fire Safety Facilities (eg Smoke Detectors)

Fire safety facilities, such as smoke detectors, shall be provided where a fire engineer's specific design requires them for building code compliance. For new huts, the Hut Procurement Manual only requires a fire engineer's design for building huts with a capacity of more than 20 bunks, although one may be requested for smaller huts.

2.10.5 *Fire Evacuation Notice*

Where required by the Fire Safety and Evacuation of Buildings Regulations, a fire evacuation notice shall be put up inside the hut detailing the fire evacuation procedure and fire safety advice.

2.10.6 *Soft Furnishings*

Apart from mattresses, to reduce fire risk, there shall be no soft furnishings (curtains, cloth or vinyl-covered furniture etc) in the hut or in any warden's quarters.

2.10.7 *Carbon Monoxide Warning*

A sign warning hut users of the dangers of the build up of carbon monoxide when using cookers shall be installed above the cooking bench.

2.10.8 *Intentions Book*

An intentions (hut user) book shall be provided.

2.10.9 *Information for Users Notice*

- A hut user information notice shall be supplied (the standard national notice).
- A local hut information notice, with map, should also be supplied.
- Notices shall include visitor safety information.

2.10.10 *Interpretation*

Where there are issues or features of significance interpretation should be provided in the hut or immediate surrounds.

2.10.11 *“No Smoking” Sign*

“No Smoking” signs shall be provided in the hut to make it clear that smoking inside the hut is not permitted.

2.10.12 *Hut Name*

The name of the hut shall be on a sign on the outside of the building.

2.11 **Furniture/Drying Facilities**

2.11.1 *Seats and Tables*

- Tables and seating shall be provided inside the living area of the hut.
- A length of between 400 and 500 mm of table should be provided per person.
- Between 400 and 500mm of seating should be provided per person inside the hut.
- For new huts, or extensions to existing huts, refer to the specifications in the Hut Procurement Manual for tables and seating.

2.11.2 *Pots/Utensils*

Cooking utensils, pots, billies etc shall not be provided. If they currently exist, they may stay but shall not be replaced.

2.11.3 *Drying Facilities*

- Drying rooms shall not be provided
- Sufficient hooks, nails, drying racks, outside cages (where there are keas) or lines shall be provided around (but not above) the stove, under the verandah and/or along the inside walls of the hut for each person to hang parkas and other wet gear when the hut is at capacity.

2.12 **Cleaning**

2.12.1 *Cleaning Requirements*

- Cleaning of the hut and toilets shall be carried out daily by wardens or staff during the peak season.
- The hut shall be spring-cleaned (walls, ceiling, windows, surfaces and floor washed and cleaned) once a year.

2.12.2 *Cleaning Equipment*

- A broom, brush and pan shall be provided
- Cleaning fluids and cloths shall be provided for hut users to use during the peak season

2.13 **Wardens**

2.13.1 *Warden Requirements*

- Wardens shall be provided during the peak season at one or more huts on each of the Great Walk tracks.
- Wardens, in addition to checking compliance with hut and camp fees, shall provide the following services to hut users:
 - give information on track conditions, side trips and safety;
 - supply weather forecasts (where they have a radio); and
 - clean the hut and toilets
- Wardens may also:
 - undertake minor maintenance around the hut; and
 - provide interpretation services for hut users

2.13.2 *Food Sales*

There shall be no sale of food or other products from the hut.

2.14 **Actively Managed Historic Huts**

Variations or exceptions to any of the requirements of the standards set out in 2.1 to 2.13 above may be agreed for huts formally designated as actively managed historic assets, provided the health and safety of hut users is not compromised. This is further explained below.

- A variation or exception may be approved when a requirement of these service standards conflicts with the key historic management objective of providing an authentic historic hut for visitors to use.
- Hut users' expectations of authenticity are generally met when they are aware that the hut, and its associated buildings, have had their original fabric, design and character retained, and the look and feel of the hut, both inside and out, have not substantially changed since it was built.
- Where authenticity is an issue it shall be defined in a heritage conservation plan for the hut. This plan shall set out any variations or exceptions required to the above standards in order to minimise the loss of authenticity.
- Interpretation shall be provided in all actively managed historic huts to explain to hut users the reasons for differences from the service standards and the historic importance and values of the hut.

2.15 **Visitor information on Huts**

Pre-visit information provided by the Department on huts may include printed publications, information on the DOC website, visitor centre displays, information provided by visitor centre staff and signs at track entrances. The following information on service standards shall be included in pre-visit information on Great Walk huts:

- Hut category (and whether this changes in the off-season)
- "Pack it in, take it out" rubbish policy
- Mattresses are provided
- Sleeping capacity (excluding wardens/staff bunks)
- Whether cookers are provided (and whether this changes in the off-season)
- Heating and heating fuel is provided (and whether this changes in the off-season)
- Water supply is provided
- No showers are provided
- Toilets are provided
- Toilet paper is not usually supplied and users should take their own
- Whether lighting is provided (and type)
- No pots, plates or utensils provided – users to bring their own
- Services provided by wardens (provision of information, weather forecasts, radio in emergencies) and when wardens are provided

- Whether the hut is an actively managed historic hut and, where it is, the historic importance of the hut

3. Serviced and Serviced-Alpine Huts (BCC/BCA)

The following standards shall apply to Serviced and Serviced-Alpine huts.

3.1 Hut Condition/Site Location

3.1.1 *State of repair*

The hut shall be weatherproof and in a reasonable state of repair. In particular:

- The hut and its building elements (including walls, floor and roof) shall have a low probability of rupturing, becoming unstable or collapsing in the period between inspections.
- The hut and its building elements shall not show signs of significant deterioration that would threaten its structural stability in the period between inspections.
- The hut's walls, floor, roof, windows and doors shall be in a condition that will ensure adequate resistance to penetration by, and the accumulation of, moisture from the outside in the period between inspections.
- The hut shall be in a condition that prevents surface water from entering the hut in the period between inspections.
- There shall be no impediment (such as jammed doors or windows) to making a quick exit from the hut in the case of fire or similar emergency.
- The hut shall be in a condition that would prevent infestations of pests and vermin (such as fleas, bed bugs, rats and mice) inside the building.

3.1.2 *Natural Hazards*

The hut and toilet should be sited in a location where there is a very low probability of it sustaining serious damage or being destroyed due to natural hazards (eg slips, rock fall, wind, tree fall, avalanche, flooding). A geological and avalanche hazard desk-top and hazard rating assessment, and regular inspections of the hut by staff, shall be used to determine what a "very low probability" means for the hut.²

3.2 Hut Design/Size

3.2.1 *Maximum Size*

- For new huts, and extensions and upgrades of existing huts, maximum size shall be a sleeping capacity of 35 people (including any warden's bunks).
- If an existing hut with a capacity for more than 35 people is destroyed and is to be replaced, it may be replaced to the same size as the original, at the discretion of the Regional General Manager.

3.2.2 *Design/Colour*

Design (for new huts) and colour (for all huts) shall be appropriate for the surrounding environment. For some huts, an "appropriate" colour may be a bright colour that can be clearly seen from a distance in marginal conditions for safety reasons. For other huts, where visibility is not a safety issue, an appropriate colour may be one that blends in with its surroundings.

3.2.3 *Crowding*

During the peak season, if the hut capacity is exceeded by 10% or more, over 10% of the season, management shall take action to prevent this happening the next season.

3.2.4 *Verandah/Deck*

Verandahs and decks should be provided. At Serviced-Alpine huts verandahs and decks may be provided.

² The current hazard and danger ratings are defined in "Geological Hazard Rating System for DOC Backcountry Huts, Feb 2000; prepared for DOC by GT Hancox", and "Avalanche Danger Rating System for DOC Backcountry Huts, Mar 2002, by Don Bogie". Note that a different avalanche hazard rating system is proposed and, if adopted, shall be used instead of the current system.

3.2.5 *Living Area per Person*

- For all huts, there should be a living area inside the hut of approximately 2 m² per person. “Living area” is the usable floor area of the hut interior, excluding sleeping platforms and bunks and separate bunkrooms.
- For new huts, or extensions to existing huts, refer to the base floor plans in the Hut Procurement Manual for specifications for living area per person.

3.2.6 *Flyscreens*

At huts where biting insects are a problem for visitors, flyscreens shall be used on opening windows to make the hut as insect proof as possible.

3.3 **Hut Environment**

3.3.1 *Rubbish*

A “pack it in, take it out” policy shall apply. No rubbish collection, on-site rubbish receptacles or rubbish holes shall be provided.

3.3.2 *Vegetation Clearance*

- Vegetation shall be kept approximately 4 metres clear of the hut to ensure there is sufficient light and air right around the building to avoid degradation of building materials due to dampness, mould and mildew.
- Vegetation shall also be cleared so that views from the hut are maintained, tree fall hazards are minimised and so that vegetation does not impede means of escape from the building.
- Clearance of vegetation around the hut as part of ongoing maintenance shall be done in a way that minimises any negative effects on the environment surrounding the hut, and cut vegetation shall be removed from view.

3.3.3 *Wasp Control*

The area immediately around the hut and toilets shall be kept clear of wasps and similar pests.

3.3.4 *Meat Safes/Dog Kennels*

Where huts are popular with hunters, meat safes and dog kennels should be provided, but they shall be located at least 50 metres away from the hut, toilets and track to the toilets.

3.4 **Sleeping Facilities**

3.4.1 *Mattresses*

Individual or platform bunks with mattresses shall be provided. All mattresses shall be fire retardant and meet the Department’s mattress standard.

3.4.2 *Sleeping Space Per Person*

- Where platform bunks are provided, sleeping capacity shall be calculated as 0.75 metres per person across the width of the platform.
- Visitor information containing sleeping capacity shall use sleeping capacity calculated in this way, but shall exclude any bunks used exclusively for wardens or staff.

3.4.3 *Safety Barriers on Bunks*

Where sleeping occurs with the body position parallel to the edge of a sleeping platform or bunk and there is a real danger of falling more than a metre by rolling off during sleep, a barrier shall be provided. The barrier shall be high enough and long enough to prevent a fall, but should not impede access onto or off the sleeping platform or bunk.

3.5 **Cooking**

3.5.1 *Cookers*

- Gas cookers and fuel may be provided in high use huts (those with 3,000 or more bednights a year), but see below.

- In huts with less than 3,000 bednights a year, existing cookers and fuel shall be removed, but see below. This is to be supported by public information and education containing the message that users of these huts must bring their own portable stoves.
- In huts with 3,000 or more bednights a year that do not currently have cookers, or in huts with less than 3,000 bednights a year that currently do have cookers, gas cookers and fuel may only be provided where the Regional General Manager is satisfied that:
 - the potential for injury to visitors, or fire damage to the hut is unacceptably high; or
 - the potential for environmental damage (from hut users cutting trees and lighting fires) is unacceptably high
- The Serviced and Serviced-Alpine huts that have cookers are listed in Appendix 1.

3.5.2 *Cooking Benches*

- Fire resistant and hygienic cooking bench(es) shall be provided.
- Huts with a sleeping capacity of 32 or less should have 0.3 metres of cooking bench space per person. Huts with a sleeping capacity of more than 32 should have 0.24 metres of cooking bench space per person. Cooking bench space excludes the area of any sinks. The aim with the larger huts is to cater for 80% of people cooking at the same time when the hut is at capacity.
- For new huts, or extensions to existing huts, refer to the specifications in the Hut Procurement Manual for cooking bench space per person.

3.6 **Heating**

3.6.1 *Heating and Fuel*

- Heating shall be provided in Serviced huts, but shall not be provided in Serviced-Alpine huts.
- However, for Serviced huts where heating is currently not provided, and historically has not been provided, the Regional General Manager may treat the hut as an exception to this requirement and agree that no heating needs to be provided for that hut.
- The most cost-effective type of heating and the most cost-effective fuel for each hut shall be chosen provided that the heating and fuel have minimal negative effects on the environment.
- A cost-benefit analysis of heating and fuel options should be undertaken to demonstrate to the Regional General Manager that the most cost-effective and environmentally acceptable decision has been made.
- Heating fuel shall be supplied during the peak season.
- Fuel shall be supplied in the off-season only if the hut is a BCC hut all year round, and
 - there is little or no reliable supply of dead wood available within 200 metres of the hut,
 - or there is a significant risk that live vegetation will be cut for firewood.
- If wood is the fuel supplied, it must be cut to the right length, and stored in a wood store close to or attached to the hut.

3.6.2 *Axes/Saws*

- An axe shall be provided where wood is the fuel supplied. The axe shall be kept sharp.
- Saws may also be provided.

3.6.3 *Ash Bucket*

A metal bucket for carrying ash shall be provided where the fuel supplied is wood or coal.

3.7 **Water Supply/Ablutions**

3.7.1 *Water Supply/Sign*

- The water supply for huts on BCC tracks shall be a water tank (or tanks) fed from rainwater off the roof, or via piping from natural watercourses.
- For huts on BCA tracks, water shall be supplied from either
 - a tank or tanks fed from the roof,
 - via piping from natural watercourses, or
 - a natural watercourse or water body where water is available throughout the year and is within 50 metres of the hut.
- For Serviced-Alpine huts, snow and ice is an acceptable supply

- Water shall be clean but does not have to be potable.
- A sign shall be put up near taps that states that in general the water is clean and able to be drunk without treatment, but users may, for their own protection, wish to boil or treat it.

3.7.2 *Sinks – Food Rinsing/Dish Washing*

- For Serviced huts, a sink or sinks within a minimum 900 mm of hygienic bench, and located inside or outside the hut shall be provided for food rinsing and utensil washing where there is a tank or piped water supply.
- The number of sinks varies depending on the size of the hut. A hut with a capacity of up to 20 people shall have one sink. A hut with a capacity of 21 to 36 people shall have two; between 37 and 48 people three, and over 48 people, four sinks.
- Such sinks shall also be provided in high use Serviced-Alpine huts (those with 1,000 or more bednights a year).

3.7.3 *Hand Washing Sinks*

- For Serviced huts, hand washing sinks shall be provided outside the hut or associated with the toilets. At Serviced huts with a capacity of 12 or less, however, a hand washing tap may be provided instead of a hand washing sink. Where a tap only is provided the area below it shall be well drained to ensure the ground does not become wet and muddy.
- The number of sinks varies depending on the size of the hut. A hut with a capacity of 13 to 36 people shall have one sink. A hut with a capacity of 37 to 48 people shall have two sinks. A hut with a capacity of over 48 people shall have three sinks.
- Such sinks should also be provided in high use Serviced-Alpine huts (those with 1,000 or more bednights a year).

3.7.4 *Showers/Washing Areas*

- No showers shall be provided. Showers (either hot or cold) are regarded as a luxury in the Department's backcountry huts. In addition, showers require a good, reliable water supply and are difficult to keep clean and in working order.
- Screened personal washing areas may be provided outside the hut where there are unacceptable environmental impacts occurring as a result of hut users washing in or around natural watercourses or water bodies.

3.8 **Toilets**

3.8.1 *Toilets*

- A hut with a total capacity of up to 20 people shall have one toilet (ie one pan); between 21 and 36 people, two toilets (ie two pans); between 37 and 48 people, three toilets (ie three pans); over 48 people, four toilets (ie four pans). Where wardens share toilet facilities with visitors, the total capacity of the hut includes the sleeping capacity of the warden's quarters.
- All toilets shall be located outside the hut, be fully enclosed, be unisex, have a door and a toilet seat and should have a lid. All pit or containment (vault) toilets shall be vented.
- Toilets shall not be located more than 75 metres from the hut.
- Where the toilet(s) are not easily located from the hut, a direction sign to the toilet shall be provided.
- The track to the toilet(s) at BCC huts shall have an even surface and shall not be wet or muddy.

3.8.2 *Toilet Paper*

- Toilet paper shall not be provided at all toilets except septic tank systems. Visitor information shall make it clear that users supply their own toilet paper.
- Management may choose to provide toilet paper at a hut with a septic tank and where there is concern about the material that may end up in the toilet. Users shall still be told that they need to bring toilet paper, despite any management decision to supply it.

3.9 **Lighting**

- Lighting shall not be provided in Serviced huts.

- Lighting (eg tilley lanterns, solar powered) should be provided in high use Serviced-Alpine huts (those with 1,000 or more bednights per year). Lighting may be provided in all other Serviced-Alpine huts.
- Where lighting is not provided, adequate numbers of candleholders shall be supplied. All new candleholders supplied shall be one of the Department's approved designs.

3.10 Safety Facilities/Notices

3.10.1 Radios

- Radios may be provided, as a service to hut users, in Serviced-Alpine huts and in huts where wardens are present. In huts with wardens present, radios shall only be used by wardens to provide weather forecasts and for communication with emergency services.
- In huts, other than Serviced-Alpine huts, where no warden is present, radios may be provided for hut users to operate for emergency purposes only where:
 - the hut has 2,000 or more bednights annually, **or**
 - serious accidents have occurred near the hut in recent years and having a radio in the hut would have assisted in calling for help quickly after an accident, **or**
 - the hut is located near rivers that flood a number of times a year and so keep hut users stuck in the hut for 3 days or more.

3.10.2 First Aid Kits

First aid kits shall be provided, as a service to hut users, in wardened huts only and are for the warden only to use.

3.10.3 Fire Extinguishers/Bucket Pumps

Fire extinguishers and/or bucket pumps may be provided for use by hut users to respond to minor fires such as small flare ups on cooking benches.

3.10.4 Fire Safety Facilities (eg Smoke Detectors)

Fire safety facilities, such as smoke detectors, shall be provided where a fire engineer's specific design requires them for building code compliance. For new huts, the Hut Procurement Manual only requires a fire engineer's design for building huts with a capacity of more than 20 bunks, although one may be requested for smaller huts.

3.10.5 Fire Evacuation Notice

Where required by the Fire Safety and Evacuation of Buildings Regulations, a fire evacuation notice shall be put up inside the hut detailing the fire evacuation procedure and fire safety advice.

3.10.6 Soft Furnishings

Apart from mattresses, to reduce fire risk, there shall be no soft furnishings (curtains, cloth or vinyl-covered furniture etc) in the hut or in any warden's quarters.

3.10.7 Carbon Monoxide Warning

A sign warning hut users of the dangers of the build up of carbon monoxide when using cookers shall be installed above the cooking bench.

3.10.8 Intentions Book

An intentions (hut user) book shall be provided.

3.10.9 Information for Users Notice

- A hut user information notice shall be supplied (the standard national notice).
- A local hut information notice, with map, should also be supplied.
- Notices shall include visitor safety information.

3.10.10 Interpretation

Where there are issues or features of significance interpretation should be provided in the hut or immediate surrounds.

3.10.11 “No Smoking” Sign

“No Smoking” signs shall be provided in the hut to make it clear that smoking inside the hut is not permitted.

3.10.12 Hut Name

The name of the hut shall be on a sign on the outside of the building.

3.11 Furniture/Drying Facilities

3.11.1 Seats and Tables

- Tables and seating shall be provided inside the living area of the hut.
- A length of between 400 and 500 mm of table should be provided per person.
- Between 400 and 500mm of seating should be provided per person inside the hut.
- For new huts, or extensions to existing huts, refer to the specifications in the Hut Procurement Manual for tables and seating.

3.11.2 Pots/Utensils

Cooking utensils, pots, billies etc shall not be provided. If they currently exist, they may stay but shall not be replaced.

3.11.3 Drying Facilities

- Drying rooms shall not be provided
- Sufficient hooks, nails, drying racks, outside cages (where there are keas) or lines shall be provided around (but not above) the stove, under the verandah and/or along the inside walls of the hut for each person to hang parkas and other wet gear when the hut is at capacity.

3.12 Cleaning

3.12.1 Cleaning Requirements

- At BCC huts, the hut and toilet shall be cleaned during the peak season when the number of bednights since the last time they were cleaned totals the hut capacity x 5. For example, for a 20 bunk hut, cleaning shall be carried out at least every 100 bednights.
- This formula should also be used to determine how frequently a hut that is not regularly wardened should be visited by staff or a warden to check the hut and update any information in it. Bednights should be determined by looking at historical information from previous years or from intention books at road-ends or visitor centres.
- At Serviced-Alpine huts, the hut and toilet shall be cleaned at least once a year.
- At BCA huts, the hut and toilet shall be cleaned at least every 6 months.
- The hut and toilet shall be spring-cleaned (walls, ceiling, windows, surfaces and floor washed and cleaned) once a year.

3.12.2 Cleaning Equipment

- A broom, brush and pan shall be provided
- At BCC huts, cleaning fluids and cloths shall be provided for hut users to use during the peak season
- At BCA huts and Serviced-Alpine huts, cleaning fluids shall not be supplied, but cloths shall be provided.

3.13 Wardens

3.13.1 Warden Requirements

- At BCC huts, wardens shall be provided during the peak season at one or more huts on the track only where the revenue gained (from increased hut fee compliance) is greater than the full cost of providing the warden and running the warden's quarters.
- At BCA huts, wardens shall be provided, but only at times of the year when the revenue gained (from increased hut fee compliance) is greater than the full cost of providing the warden and running any warden's quarters.
- At Serviced-Alpine huts, wardens should not be provided.
- Wardens, in addition to their main role of checking compliance with hut fees, shall provide the following services to visitors:
 - give information on track conditions and safety,
 - operate the radio (if there is one) to communicate with emergency services.
 - At BCC huts, wardens also clean the hut and toilets.
- Wardens may also provide interpretation services for hut users.

3.13.2 Food Sales

There shall be no sale of food or other products from the hut.

3.14 Actively Managed Historic Huts

Variations or exceptions to any of the requirements of the standards set out in 3.1 to 3.13 above may be agreed for huts formally designated as actively managed historic assets, provided the health and safety of hut users is not compromised. This is further explained below.

- A variation or exception may be approved when a requirement of these service standards conflicts with the key historic management objective of providing an authentic historic hut for visitors to use.
- Hut users' expectations of authenticity are generally met when they are aware that the hut, and its associated buildings, have had their original fabric, design and character retained, and the look and feel of the hut, both inside and out, have not substantially changed since it was built.
- Where authenticity is an issue it shall be defined in a heritage conservation plan for the hut. This plan shall set out any variations or exceptions required to the above standards in order to minimise the loss of authenticity.
- Interpretation shall be provided in all actively managed historic huts to explain to hut users the reasons for differences from the service standards and the historic importance and values of the hut.

3.15 Visitor information on Huts

Pre-visit information provided by the Department on huts may include printed publications, information on the DOC website, visitor centre displays, information provided by visitor centre staff and signs at track entrances. The following information on service standards shall be included in pre-visit information on Serviced and Serviced-Alpine huts:

- Hut category (and whether this changes in the off-season)
- "Pack it in, take it out" rubbish policy
- Mattresses are provided
- Sleeping capacity (excluding wardens/staff bunks)
- Whether cookers are provided (and whether this changes in the off-season)
- Heating and heating fuel is provided for Serviced huts (and whether this changes in the off-season)
- Heating and heating fuel is not provided for Serviced-Alpine huts
- Water supply is provided (and type)
- No showers are provided
- Toilets are provided
- Toilet paper is not usually supplied and users should take their own
- Whether lighting is provided (and type)
- Whether radios are provided for users to operate
- No pots, plates or utensils provided – users to bring their own

- Services provided by wardens (provision of information, and, if provided, radio in emergencies) and when wardens are provided
- Whether the hut is an actively managed historic hut and, where it is, the historic importance of the hut

4. Standard Huts (BCA)

The following standards shall apply to Standard huts.

4.1 Hut Condition/Site Location

4.1.1 *State of repair*

The hut shall be weatherproof and in a reasonable state of repair. In particular:

- The hut and its building elements (including walls, floor and roof) shall have a low probability of rupturing, becoming unstable or collapsing in the period between inspections.
- The hut and its building elements shall not show signs of significant deterioration that would threaten its structural stability in the period between inspections.
- The hut's walls, floor, roof, windows and doors shall be in a condition that will ensure adequate resistance to penetration by, and the accumulation of, moisture from the outside in the period between inspections.
- The hut shall be in a condition that prevents surface water from entering the hut in the period between inspections.
- There shall be no impediment (such as jammed doors or windows) to making a quick exit from the hut in the case of fire or similar emergency.
- The hut shall be in a condition that would prevent infestations of pests and vermin (such as fleas, bed bugs, rats and mice) inside the building.

4.1.2 *Natural Hazards*

The hut and toilet should be sited in a location where there is a low probability of it sustaining serious damage or being destroyed due to natural hazards (eg slips, rock fall, wind, tree fall, avalanche, flooding). A geological and avalanche hazard desk-top and hazard rating assessment, and regular inspections of the hut by staff, shall be used to determine what a "low probability" means for the hut.³

4.2 Hut Condition/Site Location

4.2.1 *Maximum Size*

- For new huts, and extensions and upgrades of existing huts, maximum size shall be a sleeping capacity of 20 people
- If an existing hut with a capacity for more than 20 people is destroyed and is to be replaced, it may be replaced to the same size as the original, at the discretion of the Regional General Manager.

4.2.2 *Design/Colour*

Design (for new huts) and colour (for all huts) shall be appropriate for the surrounding environment. For some huts, an "appropriate" colour may be a bright colour that can be clearly seen from a distance in marginal conditions for safety reasons. For other huts, where visibility is not a safety issue, an appropriate colour may be one that blends in with its surroundings.

4.2.3 *Crowding*

During the peak season, if the hut capacity is exceeded by 10% or more, over 10% of the season, management shall take action to prevent this happening the next season.

4.2.4 *Verandah/Deck*

- Verandahs and decks may be provided to reduce impacts on the environment surrounding the hut, to improve appreciation of views from the hut or where space is required for gear, such as boots and wet weather clothes.
- At new huts, a porch (covered deck) should be built on the entrance wall.

³ The current hazard and danger ratings are defined in "Geological Hazard Rating System for DOC Backcountry Huts, Feb 2000; prepared for DOC by GT Hancox", and "Avalanche Danger Rating System for DOC Backcountry Huts, Mar 2002, by Don Bogie". Note that a different avalanche hazard rating system is proposed and, if adopted, shall be used instead of the current system.

4.2.5 *Living Area per Person*

- For all huts, there should be a living area inside the hut of 1.8 to 2 m² per person. “Living area” is the usable floor area of the hut interior, excluding sleeping platforms and bunks and separate bunkrooms.
- For new huts, or extensions to existing huts, refer to the base floor plans in the Hut Procurement Manual for specifications for living area per person.

4.2.6 *Flyscreens*

At huts where biting insects are a problem for visitors, flyscreens should be used on opening windows to make the hut as insect proof as possible.

4.3 **Hut Environment**

4.3.1 *Rubbish*

A “pack it in, take it out” policy shall apply. No rubbish collection, on-site rubbish receptacles or rubbish holes shall be provided.

4.3.2 *Vegetation Clearance*

- Vegetation shall be kept approximately 4 metres clear of the hut to ensure there is sufficient light and air right around the building to avoid degradation of building materials due to dampness, mould and mildew.
- Vegetation shall also be cleared so that views from the hut are maintained, tree fall hazards are minimised and so that vegetation does not impede means of escape from the building.
- Clearance of vegetation around the hut as part of ongoing maintenance shall be done in a way that minimises any negative effects on the environment surrounding the hut, and cut vegetation shall be removed from view.

4.3.3 *Wasp Control*

At huts with 1,000 or more bednights per year, the area immediately around the hut and toilets should be kept clear of wasps and similar pests. At huts with less than 1,000 bednights per year, wasp control should only be carried out if complaints are received.

4.3.4 *Meat Safes/Dog Kennels*

Where huts are popular with hunters, meat safes and dog kennels should be provided, but they shall be located at least 20 metres away from the hut and the track to the toilet.

4.4 **Sleeping Facilities**

4.4.1 *Mattresses*

Individual or platform bunks with mattresses shall be provided. All mattresses shall be fire retardant and meet the Department’s mattress standard.

4.4.2 *Sleeping Space Per Person*

- Where platform bunks are provided, sleeping capacity shall be calculated as 0.75 metres per person across the width of the platform.
- Visitor information containing sleeping capacity shall use sleeping capacity calculated in this way.

4.4.3 *Safety Barriers on Bunks*

Where sleeping occurs with the body position parallel to the edge of a sleeping platform or bunk and there is a real danger of falling more than a metre by rolling off during sleep, a barrier shall be provided. The barrier shall be high enough and long enough to prevent a fall, but should not impede access onto or off the sleeping platform or bunk.

4.5 **Cooking**

4.5.1 *Cookers*

Cookers shall not be provided.

4.5.2 *Cooking Bench*

- Fire resistant and hygienic cooking bench(es) shall be provided.
- Huts should have 0.24 to 0.3 metres of cooking bench space per person. Cooking bench space excludes the area of any sinks.
- For new huts, or extensions to existing huts, refer to the specifications in the Hut Procurement Manual for cooking bench space per person.

4.6 **Heating**

4.6.1 *Heating and Fuel*

- A wood burning stove for heating shall be provided in huts that are near or below the bush-line, where:
 - there is a reliable supply of dead wood available within 200 metres of the hut, and
 - there is a low risk that live vegetation will be cut for firewood.
- Heating shall not be provided in huts that do not meet the above criteria.
- Heating fuel shall not be provided (users find their own fuel).
- Existing open fireplaces (in huts that meet the above criteria for having heating) shall be phased out when they require maintenance or upgrading and replaced with wood burning stoves. This is because open fireplaces are not generally a safe and efficient way to heat a hut.
- Huts with heating shall have a dry place outside the hut to store wood.

4.6.2 *Axes/Saws*

- An axe shall be provided in huts where heating is supplied, except where the potential for vandalism is high. The axe shall be kept sharp.
- Saws may also be provided.

4.6.3 *Ash Bucket*

A metal bucket for carrying ash shall be provided at huts where heating is provided.

4.7 **Water Supply/Ablutions**

4.7.1 *Water Supply/Sign*

- Water supply shall be:
 - from a tank or tanks fed from rainwater off the roof; or
 - via piping from natural watercourses; or
 - from a natural watercourse or water body where water is available throughout the year and is within 100 metres of the hut.
- For huts in permanent snow, snow and ice is an acceptable supply.
- Water shall be clean but does not have to be potable.
- A sign shall be put up that states that in general the water is clean and able to be drunk without treatment, but users may, for their own protection, wish to boil or treat it.

4.7.2 *Sinks – Food Rinsing/Dish Washing*

Food rinsing/dish washing sinks should not be provided. Existing sinks may remain but shall not be replaced.

4.7.3 *Hand Washing Sinks*

- Hand washing sinks shall not be provided in existing huts except for environmental reasons, such as to avoid pollution from people washing in a small lake or tarn.
- Existing sinks may remain but shall only be replaced if needed for environmental reasons.
- In new huts, hand washing sinks may be provided outside the hut if needed for environmental reasons or where water is piped or supplied off the roof.
- Where a tap only is provided the area below it shall be well drained to ensure the ground does not become wet and muddy.

4.7.4 *Showers/Washing Areas*

No showers or screened washing areas shall be provided.

4.8 Toilets

4.8.1 Toilets

- A hut with a total capacity of up to 20 people shall have one toilet (ie one pan); between 21 and 36 people, two toilets (ie two pans); between 37 and 48 people, three toilets (ie three pans); over 48 people, four toilets (ie four pans).
- All toilets shall be located outside the hut, be fully enclosed, be unisex, have a door and have a toilet seat and should have a lid. All pit or containment (vault) toilets shall be vented.
- Toilets shall not be located more than 75 metres from the hut.
- Where the toilet(s) is not easily located from the hut, a direction sign to the toilet shall be provided.

4.8.2 Toilet Paper

Toilet paper shall not be provided.

4.9 Lighting

- Lighting shall not be provided.
- Adequate numbers of candleholders shall be supplied. All new candleholders supplied shall be one of the Department's approved designs.

4.10 Safety Facilities/Notices

4.10.1 Radios

- In Standard huts in alpine locations, radios may be provided for hut users to operate for emergency purposes only where:
 - the hut has 2,000 or more bednights annually, **or**
 - serious accidents have occurred near the hut in recent years and having a radio in the hut would have assisted in calling for help quickly after an accident.
- In all other huts radios shall not be provided.

4.10.2 First Aid Kits

First aid kits shall not be provided.

4.10.3 Fire Extinguishers/Bucket Pumps

Fire extinguishers and bucket pumps shall not be provided.

4.10.4 Fire Safety Facilities (eg Smoke Detectors)

Fire safety facilities, such as smoke detectors, shall be provided where a fire engineer's specific design requires them for building code compliance. For new huts, the Hut Procurement Manual only requires a fire engineer's design for building huts with a capacity of more than 20 bunks, although one may be requested for smaller huts.

4.10.5 Fire Evacuation Notice

For huts with a sleeping capacity of 6 or more, where required by the Fire Safety and Evacuation of Buildings Regulations, a fire evacuation notice shall be put up inside the hut detailing the fire evacuation procedure and fire safety advice.

4.10.6 Soft Furnishings

Apart from mattresses, to reduce fire risk, there shall be no soft furnishings (curtains, cloth or vinyl-covered furniture etc) in the hut.

4.10.7 Carbon Monoxide Warning

A sign warning hut users of the dangers of the build up of carbon monoxide when using cookers shall be installed in the hut.

4.10.8 Intentions Book

An intentions (hut user) book shall be provided.

4.10.9 *Information for Users Notice*

- A hut user information notice shall be supplied (the standard national notice).
- A local hut information notice, with map, should also be supplied.
- Notices shall include visitor safety information.

4.10.10 *Interpretation*

Where there are issues or features of significance interpretation may be provided in the hut or immediate surrounds.

4.10.11 *“No Smoking” Sign*

“No Smoking” signs may be provided in the hut.

4.10.12 *Hut Name*

The name of the hut shall be on a sign on the outside of the building.

4.11 **Furniture/Drying Facilities**

4.11.1 *Seats and Tables*

- Tables and seating shall be provided, except in huts with a sleeping capacity of four or less where tables and seating should be provided if practicable.
- A length of between 300 and 500 mm of table should be provided per person.
- Between 300 and 500mm of seating should be provided per person inside the hut.
- For new huts, or extensions to existing huts, refer to the specifications in the Hut Procurement Manual for tables and seating.

4.11.2 *Pots/Utensils*

Cooking utensils, pots, billies etc shall not be provided. If they currently exist, they may stay but shall not be replaced.

4.11.3 *Drying Facilities*

- Drying rooms shall not be provided
- Sufficient hooks, nails, drying racks or lines shall be provided around (but not above) the stove, under the verandah and/or along the inside walls of the hut for each person to hang parkas and other wet gear when the hut is at capacity.

4.12 **Cleaning**

4.12.1 *Cleaning Requirements*

The hut and toilet shall be spring-cleaned (walls, ceiling, windows, surfaces and floor washed and cleaned) once a year.

4.12.2 *Cleaning Equipment*

- A broom, brush and pan shall be provided
- Cleaning cloths may be supplied
- Cleaning fluids shall not be supplied

4.13 **Wardens**

4.13.1 *Warden Requirements*

Wardens shall not be provided.

4.13.2 *Food Sales*

There shall be no sale of food from the hut.

4.14 Actively Managed Historic Huts

Variations or exceptions to any of the requirements of the standards set out in 4.1 to 4.13 above may be agreed for huts formally designated as actively managed historic assets, provided the health and safety of hut users is not compromised. This is further explained below.

- A variation or exception may be approved when a requirement of these service standards conflicts with the key historic management objective of providing an authentic historic hut for visitors to use.
- Hut users' expectations of authenticity are generally met when they are aware that the hut, and its associated buildings, have had their original fabric, design and character retained, and the look and feel of the hut, both inside and out, have not substantially changed since it was built.
- Where authenticity is an issue it shall be defined in a heritage conservation plan for the hut. This plan shall set out any variations or exceptions required to the above standards in order to minimise the loss of authenticity.
- Interpretation shall be provided in all actively managed historic huts to explain to hut users the reasons for differences from the service standards and the historic importance and values of the hut.

4.15 Visitor information on Huts

Pre-visit information provided by the Department on huts may include printed publications, information on the DOC website, visitor centre displays, information provided by visitor centre staff and signs at track entrances. The following information on service standards shall be included in pre-visit information on Standard huts:

- Hut category
- "Pack it in, take it out" rubbish policy
- Mattresses are provided
- Sleeping capacity
- Cookers are not provided and users should take their own
- Whether heating is provided and if it is, no heating fuel is supplied – users find wood to use as fuel
- Water supply is provided (and type)
- No showers are provided
- Toilets are provided
- Toilet paper is not supplied and users should take their own
- Lighting is not provided
- Whether radios are provided for users to operate
- No pots, plates or utensils provided – users to bring their own
- No wardens
- Whether the hut is an actively managed historic hut and, where it is, the historic importance of the hut

5. Basic Huts (BCA/RS)

The following standards will apply to Basic huts and all bivvies.

5.1 Hut Condition/Site Location

5.1.1 *State of repair*

The hut shall be weatherproof and in a reasonable state of repair. In particular:

- The hut and its building elements (including walls, floor and roof) shall have a low probability of rupturing, becoming unstable or collapsing in the period between inspections.
- The hut and its building elements shall not show signs of significant deterioration that would threaten its structural stability in the period between inspections.
- The hut's walls, floor, roof, windows and doors shall be in a condition that will ensure adequate resistance to penetration by, and the accumulation of, moisture from the outside in the period between inspections.
- The hut shall be in a condition that prevents surface water from entering the hut in the period between inspections.
- There shall be no impediment (such as jammed doors or windows) to making a quick exit from the hut in the case of fire or similar emergency.
- The hut shall be in a condition that would prevent infestations of pests and vermin (such as fleas, bed bugs, rats and mice) inside the building.

5.1.2 *Natural Hazards*

The hut and toilet should be sited in a location where there is a low probability of it sustaining serious damage or being destroyed due to natural hazards (eg slips, rock fall, wind, tree fall, avalanche, flooding). A geological and avalanche hazard desk-top and hazard rating assessment, and regular inspections of the hut by staff, shall be used to determine what a "low probability" means for the hut.⁴

5.2 Hut Design/Size

5.2.1 *Maximum Size*

- For existing huts maximum size shall be a sleeping capacity of 20 people.
- For new huts maximum size shall be a sleeping capacity of 6 people.

5.2.2 *Design/Colour*

Design (for new huts) and colour (for all huts) shall be appropriate for the surrounding environment. For some huts, an "appropriate" colour may be a bright colour that can be clearly seen from a distance in marginal conditions for safety reasons. For other huts, where visibility is not a safety issue, an appropriate colour may be one that blends in with its surroundings.

5.2.3 *Crowding*

During the peak season, if the hut capacity is exceeded by 10% or more, over 10% of the season, management shall take action to prevent this happening the next season.

5.2.4 *Verandah/Deck*

- At existing huts, verandahs and decks shall not be constructed, but may remain if already in place.
- At new huts, a porch (covered deck) may be built on the entrance wall, but no additional deck or verandah shall be constructed. At existing huts with a porch, the porch may remain.

⁴ The current hazard and danger ratings are defined in "Geological Hazard Rating System for DOC Backcountry Huts, Feb 2000; prepared for DOC by GT Hancox", and "Avalanche Danger Rating System for DOC Backcountry Huts, Mar 2002, by Don Bogie" . Note that a different avalanche hazard rating system is proposed and, if adopted, shall be used instead of the current system.

5.2.5 *Living Area per Person*

There are no requirements for living area per person for existing Basic huts, but new huts or extensions to existing ones shall not have a living area exceeding 2 m².

5.2.6 *Flyscreens*

Flyscreens should not be provided. Existing flyscreens may remain but should not be replaced.

5.3 **Hut Environment**

5.3.1 *Rubbish*

A “pack it in, take it out” policy shall apply. No rubbish collection, on-site rubbish receptacles or rubbish holes shall be provided.

5.3.2 *Vegetation Clearance*

- Vegetation shall be kept approximately 4 metres clear of the hut to ensure there is sufficient light and air right around the building to avoid degradation of building materials due to dampness, mould and mildew.
- Vegetation shall also be cleared so that views from the hut are maintained, tree fall hazards are minimised and so that vegetation does not impede means of escape from the building.
- Clearance of vegetation around the hut as part of ongoing maintenance shall be done in a way that minimises any negative effects on the environment surrounding the hut, and cut vegetation shall be removed from view.

5.3.3 *Wasp Control*

Wasp control should not be carried out around the hut, unless complaints are received.

5.3.4 *Meat Safes/Dog Kennels*

Where huts are popular with hunters, meat safes and dog kennels may be provided, but they shall be located at least 10 metres away from the hut.

5.4 **Sleeping Facilities**

5.4.1 *Mattresses*

- Mattresses shall not be provided in new huts.
- Mattresses shall only be provided in existing huts where the design of the bunks requires mattresses to enable the bunks to be used. Any mattress provided shall be fire retardant and meet the Department’s mattress standard.
- Existing mattresses in huts where the design of the bunks does not require mattresses to enable the bunks to be used shall not be replaced.

5.4.2 *Sleeping Space Per Person*

- Where platform bunks are provided, sleeping capacity shall be calculated as 0.75 metres per person across the width of the platform.
- Visitor information containing sleeping capacity shall use sleeping capacity calculated in this way.

5.4.3 *Safety Barriers on Bunks*

Where sleeping occurs with the body position parallel to the edge of a sleeping platform or bunk and there is a real danger of falling more than a metre by rolling off during sleep, a barrier shall be provided. The barrier shall be high enough and long enough to prevent a fall, but should not impede access onto or off the sleeping platform or bunk.

5.5 **Cooking**

5.5.1 *Cookers*

Cookers shall not be provided.

5.5.2 *Cooking Bench*

A fire resistant and hygienic cooking bench may be provided. Cooking bench space should not exceed 0.24 metres per person.

5.6 **Heating**

5.6.1 *Heating and Fuel*

- Heating shall not be provided (but see below).
- In existing huts that have a wood-burning stove or an open fire place, these may remain, but only until maintenance or upgrade work is required, provided that:
 - the hut is near or below the bush-line, and
 - there is a reliable supply of dead wood available within 250 metres of the hut, and
 - there is a low risk that live vegetation will be cut for firewood.
- In such huts, heating fuel shall not be provided by the Department.
- Existing fireplaces and wood-burners shall not be replaced in a Basic hut

5.6.2 *Axes/Saws*

An axe or saw may be provided where there is heating in the hut.

5.6.3 *Ash Bucket*

A metal bucket for carrying ash should be provided at huts where there is heating.

5.7 **Water Supply/Ablutions**

5.7.1 *Water Supply/Sign*

- The hut shall have a water supply, which may be a natural water body or water course where water is available throughout the year within 200 metres of the hut, or permanent snow.
- Water shall be clean but does not have to be potable.
- An existing water tank or piping that has reached the end of its life may be replaced, but should not be if there is permanent snow or a natural water body or water course within 200 metres of the hut that supplies water throughout the year.
- A sign shall be put up that states that in general the water is clean and able to be drunk without treatment, but users may, for their own protection, wish to boil or treat it.

5.7.2 *Sinks – Food Rinsing/Dish Washing*

Food rinsing/dish washing sinks shall not be provided. Existing sinks may remain but shall not be replaced.

5.7.3 *Sinks – Hand Washing*

- Hand washing sinks shall not be provided except for environmental reasons, such as to avoid pollution from people washing in a small lake or tarn.
- Existing sinks may remain but shall only be replaced if needed for environmental reasons.

5.7.4 *Showers/Washing Areas*

No showers or screened washing areas shall be provided.

5.8 **Toilets**

5.8.1 *Toilets*

- A toilet should be provided at existing huts.
- A hut may not have a toilet, but a toilet shall be provided at existing huts when the regular inspection concludes that the hut or its surrounding environment is insanitary. A hut or bivvy shall be regarded as insanitary when the inspection concludes:
 - that the hut is getting significant use, or concentration of use at particular times of the year, **and**
 - there is evidence of toilet waste around or near the hut, **or**
 - there is evidence of, or potential for pollution of water bodies or water courses (which may include the hut water supply) near the hut resulting from toilet waste.

- New huts shall have a toilet provided.
- The toilet shall be located outside the hut, be fully enclosed, be unisex and have a toilet seat and should have a lid and a door.
- All new pit or containment (vault) toilets shall be vented. Existing pit or containment toilets shall be vented if the regular inspection concludes that the toilet has an offensive smell.
- Toilets shall not be located more than 100 metres from the hut.
- Where the toilet is not easily located from the hut, a direction sign to the toilet shall be provided.

5.8.2 *Toilet Paper*

Toilet paper shall not be supplied.

5.9 **Lighting**

- Lighting shall not be provided.
- Candleholders shall be supplied at huts with a sleeping capacity of six or more. Candleholders may be supplied at huts with a sleeping capacity of less than six. All new candleholders supplied shall be one of the Department's approved designs.

5.10 **Safety Facilities/Notices**

5.10.1 *Radios*

Radios shall not be provided.

5.10.2 *First Aid Kits*

First aid kits shall not be provided.

5.10.3 *Fire Extinguishers/ Bucket Pumps*

Fire extinguishers and bucket pumps shall not be provided.

5.10.4 *Smoke Detectors*

Smoke detectors shall not be provided.

5.10.5 *Fire Evacuation Notice*

For huts with a sleeping capacity of 6 or more, where required by the Fire Safety and Evacuation of Buildings Regulations, a fire evacuation notice shall be put up inside the hut detailing the fire evacuation procedure and fire safety advice.

5.10.6 *Soft Furnishings*

Apart from any mattresses, to reduce fire risk, there shall be no soft furnishings (curtains, cloth or vinyl-covered furniture etc) in the hut.

5.10.7 *Carbon Monoxide Warning*

A sign warning hut users of the dangers of the build up of carbon monoxide when using cookers shall be installed in the hut.

5.10.8 *Intentions Book*

An intentions (hut user) book shall be provided.

5.10.9 *Information for Users Notice*

- A hut user information notice should be supplied (the standard national notice).
- Notices shall include visitor safety information.

5.10.10 *Interpretation*

Where there are issues or features of high significance interpretation may be provided in the hut or immediate surrounds.

5.10.11 *"No Smoking" Signs*

"No Smoking" signs shall not be provided in the hut.

5.10.12 Hut Name

The name of the hut should be on a sign on the outside of the building.

5.11 Furniture/Drying Facilities

5.11.1 Seats and Tables

Tables and seats may be provided.

5.11.2 Utensils/Pots

Cooking utensils, pots, billies etc shall not be provided. If they currently exist, they may stay but shall not be replaced.

5.11.3 Drying Facilities

- Drying rooms shall not be provided
- Hooks, nails, drying racks or lines may be provided.

5.12 Cleaning

5.12.1 Cleaning Requirements

The hut and toilet shall be spring-cleaned during the regular hut inspection.

5.12.2 Cleaning Equipment

- A broom, brush and pan may be provided
- Cleaning cloths may be supplied
- Cleaning fluids shall not be supplied

5.13 Wardens

5.13.1 Warden Requirements

Wardens shall not be provided.

5.13.2 Food Sales

There shall be no sale of food or other products from the hut.

5.14 Actively Managed Historic Huts

Variations or exceptions to any of the requirements of the standards set out in 5.1 to 5.13 above may be agreed for huts formally designated as actively managed historic assets, provided the health and safety of hut users is not compromised. This is further explained below.

- A variation or exception may be approved when a requirement of these service standards conflicts with the key historic management objective of providing an authentic historic hut for visitors to use.
- Hut users' expectations of authenticity are generally met when they are aware that the hut, and its associated buildings, have had their original fabric, design and character retained, and the look and feel of the hut, both inside and out, have not substantially changed since it was built.
- Where authenticity is an issue it shall be defined in a heritage conservation plan for the hut. This plan shall set out any variations or exceptions required to the above standards in order to minimise the loss of authenticity.
- Interpretation shall be provided in all actively managed historic huts to explain to hut users the reasons for differences from the service standards and the historic importance and values of the hut.

5.15 Visitor information on Huts

Pre-visit information provided by the Department on huts may include printed publications, information on the DOC website, visitor centre displays, information provided by visitor centre staff and signs at track entrances. The following information on service standards shall be included in pre-visit information on Basic huts:

- Hut category

- “Pack it in, take it out” rubbish policy
- Whether mattresses are provided
- Sleeping capacity
- Cookers are not provided and users should take their own
- Whether heating is provided and if it is, no heating fuel is supplied – users find wood to use as fuel
- Water supply is provided (and type)
- No showers are provided
- Whether toilets are provided
- Toilet paper is not supplied and users should take their own
- Lighting is not provided
- No pots, plates or utensils provided – users to bring their own
- Whether the hut is an actively managed historic hut and, where it is, the historic importance of the hut

Hut Service Standards – Summary (for exact wording, see sections 2 to 5 above)

	BCC		BCA		RS
Service/Facility	Great Walk huts	Serviced huts	Standard huts	Basic huts	
<u>Hut Condition/Site Location</u>	Hut/toilets shall be weatherproof, and in reasonable state of repair.	Hut/toilets shall be weatherproof, and in reasonable state of repair.	Hut/toilets shall be weatherproof, and in reasonable state of repair.	Hut/toilets shall be weatherproof, and in reasonable state of repair.	
Site Location	Hut has very low probability of damage or destruction from natural hazards	Hut has very low probability of damage or destruction from natural hazards	Hut has low probability of damage or destruction from natural hazards	Hut has low probability of damage or destruction from natural hazards	
<u>Hut Design/Size</u> Maximum Size (new huts)	60 people	35 people	20 people	Existing huts – 20 people New huts – 6 people	
Design/Colour	Design (for new huts) and colour (for all huts) shall be appropriate for the surrounding environment				
Crowding	During the peak period (if there is one), if hut capacity is exceeded by 10% over 10% of the season, management must take action to prevent this happening next season.				
Verandah/Deck	Should be provided	Should be provided At Serviced-Alpine huts – may be provided	May be provided in specified circumstances. New huts should have a porch.	Shall not be constructed (existing huts). New huts may have a porch. Porches at existing huts may remain.	
Living Area per Person	Approx 2 m ²	Approx 2 m ²	1.8 to 2 m ²	New huts shall not exceed 2 m ²	
Flyscreens	Shall be provided where biting insects are a problem	Shall be provided where biting insects are a problem	Shall be provided where biting insects are a problem	Should not be provided. Existing flyscreens may remain but should not be replaced.	

	BCC		BCA		RS
Service/Facility	Great Walk huts	Serviced huts	Standard huts	Basic huts	
<i>Hut Environment</i> Rubbish Collection/Rubbish Holes	No	No	No	No	
Vegetation Clearance	Vegetation shall be kept approx 4 metres clear of the hut so that there is light and air, views are maintained, tree fall hazards are minimised and so that means of escape from the building are not impeded.				
Wasp Control	Area around hut/toilets shall be kept clear of wasps	Area around hut/toilets shall be kept clear of wasps	Huts 1,000+ bednights – should be carried out Huts <1,000 bednights – should be carried out if complaints received	No (unless complaints received)	
Meat safes/Dog kennels	Where hut is popular with hunters – may be provided. Shall be 50 m or more from the hut/toilets.	Where hut is popular with hunters – should be provided Shall be 50 m or more from the hut/toilets.	Where hut is popular with hunters – should be provided Shall be 20 m or more from the hut/track to toilet.	Where hut is popular with hunters – may be provided Shall be 10 m or more from the hut.	
<i>Sleeping Facilities</i> Mattresses	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	New huts – No Existing huts – shall be provided only where design of bunks requires them	
Sleeping Space per Person	For platform bunks – calculated as 0.75 m across the width of the platform				
Safety Barriers on Bunks	Shall be provided where there is a real danger of falling more than metre by rolling off a bunk or platform				
<i>Cooking</i> Provide cookers/cooking fuel	May be provided If provided, must be at all main huts on the track.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Huts (currently with cookers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - with 3,000+ bednights – may be provided; - with <3,000 bednights – No (but can remain if criteria met – RGM decision) Huts (currently without cookers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - with 3,000+ bednights – may be provided, only if criteria met (RGM decision); - with <3,000 bednights – No (but may be provided if criteria met – RGM decision) 		No	No

	BCC		BCA		RS
Service/Facility	Great Walk huts	Serviced huts	Standard huts	Basic huts	
Cooking bench(es)	Shall be provided Huts >32 bunks – should have 0.24m per person Huts <33 bunks – should have 0.3m per person	Shall be provided Huts >32 bunks – should have 0.24m per person Huts <33 bunks – should have 0.3m per person	Shall be provided Should have 0.24 to 0.3m per person	May be provided If provided, should not exceed 0.24 m per person	
Heating Heating Provided	Shall be provided	Shall be provided Shall not be provided in Serviced-Alpine huts. RGM may choose to not provide heating where it has not historically been provided.	Shall be provided in huts near or below the bush-line and where reliable dead wood exists within 200m of the hut and there is a low risk of live vegetation being cut	Shall not be provided Heating in existing huts may remain until work is required provided the hut is near or below the bush-line has reliable dead wood within 250m of the hut and there is a low risk of live vegetation being cut	
Type of Heating	Choose most cost effective type	Choose most cost-effective type	Wood burning stoves. Open fire places shall be phased out and replaced with wood burners over time.	Existing burners and fire places shall not be replaced when maintenance or upgrading is required.	
Fuel Supplied	Shall be provided	Shall be provided in peak season. Fuel shall be supplied in off-season, only for BCC huts and only if criteria met	No	No	

	BCC		BCA		RS
Service/Facility	Great Walk huts	Serviced huts	Standard huts	Basic huts	
Axe or Saw Provided	Should be provided where fuel is wood & no warden present	Axe shall be provided where wood is used for fuel. Saws may also be provided	Axe shall be provided where heating is provided (except where potential for vandalism is high). Saws may also be provided	May be provided where there is heating in the hut	
Ash Bucket	Shall be provided where heating is wood/coal	Shall be provided where heating is wood/coal	Shall be provided where heating is provided	Should be provided where there is heating in the hut	
<u>Water Supply/Ablutions</u> Water Supply	Shall be tank or piped	Shall be tank or piped. For BCA huts and Serviced-Alpine huts, natural watercourse, snow or ice is an acceptable water supply. Where natural watercourse or water body is the supply, it must be available all year round & be within 50m of the hut.	Shall be tank, piped, natural watercourse/water body or permanent snow/ice. Where natural watercourse or water body is the supply, it must be available all year round & be within 100m of the hut.	Natural watercourse or water body (within 200m of the hut) or permanent snow. Existing tank or pipes should not be replaced where there is a natural watercourse or permanent snow within 200 metres of hut.	
Potable Water Required	No (but sign required)	No (but sign required)	No (but sign required)	No (but sign required)	
Sinks - Food rinsing/Dish washing	Shall be provided Number of sinks depends on hut size	Shall be provided (except Serviced-Alpine huts, where shall be provided only for huts with 1,000+ bednights) Number of sinks depends on hut size	Should not be provided Existing sinks may remain but are not replaced	Shall not be provided Existing sinks may remain but are not replaced	
Hand-washing Sinks	Shall be provided Number of sinks depends on hut size	Shall be provided except : - at Serviced-Alpine huts with 1,000+ bednights where they should be provided; or - at Serviced huts with capacity of <13 where a hand washing tap may be provided instead of a hand washing sink. Number of sinks depends on hut size	May be provided only if needed to protect the environment or (in new huts) to protect the environment or where water is supplied off the roof	May be provided only if needed to protect environment	

	BCC		BCA		RS
Service/Facility	Great Walk huts	Serviced huts	Standard huts	Basic huts	
Showers	No	No	No	No	
Screened personal washing area	May be provided where unacceptable environmental impacts from washing occur	May be provided where unacceptable environmental impacts from washing occur	No	No	
<u>Toilets</u> Provide toilets	<p>Shall be provided</p> <p>Number of toilets depends on hut size. Toilets to be outside, <75m from the hut, unisex, have a door, toilet seat and should have a lid. Pit and vault toilets shall be vented.</p> <p>The track to the toilet shall be even and not wet/muddy.</p>	<p>Shall be provided</p> <p>Number of toilets depends on hut size. Toilets to be outside, <75m from the hut, unisex, have a door, toilet seat and should have a lid. Pit and vault toilets shall be vented.</p> <p>The track to the toilet at BCC huts shall be even and not wet/muddy.</p>	<p>Shall be provided</p> <p>Number of toilets depends on hut size. Toilets to be outside, <75m from the hut, unisex, have a door, toilet seat and should have a lid. Pit and vault toilets shall be vented.</p>	<p>Should be provided at existing huts. Shall be provided when inspection concludes the hut/surrounding environment is insanitary. Shall be provided at new huts. Toilets to be outside, <100m from the hut, unisex, have a toilet seat and should have a lid and a door. New pit and vault toilets shall be vented and existing ones shall be vented in specified situations.</p>	
Provide toilet paper	May be provided only in specific circumstances	May be provided only in specific circumstances	No	No	
<u>Lighting</u> Lighting provided	May be provided	<p>Shall not be provided in Serviced huts.</p> <p>Should be provided in Serviced-Alpine huts with 1,000+ bednights</p> <p>May be provided in other Serviced-Alpine huts</p>	No	No	

	BCC		BCA		RS
Service/Facility	Great Walk huts	Serviced huts	Standard huts	Basic huts	
Candleholders provided	Shall be provided (where other lighting not provided)	Shall be provided (where other lighting not provided in Serviced-Alpine huts)	Shall be provided	Shall be provided at huts with > 6 bunks May be provided at huts with 6 bunks or less	
<u>Safety Facilities/Notices</u> Radios	May be provided (used only by wardens)	May be provided where wardens are in place or in Serviced-Alpine huts. In other huts, a radio may be provided for hut users only in specific circumstances.	No (except for huts in alpine locations – these may have radios in specific circumstances)	No	
First aid kit	Shall be provided in wardened huts only, and for warden only to use as a service to hut users	Shall be provided in wardened huts only, and for warden only to use as a service to hut users	No	No	
Fire extinguisher (and/or bucket pump)	May be provided	May be provided	No	No	
Fire safety facilities (eg smoke detectors)	Shall be provided where a fire engineer's specific design requires them for code compliance	Shall be provided where a fire engineer's specific design requires them for code compliance	Shall be provided where a fire engineer's specific design requires them for code compliance	No	
Fire Evacuation Notice	Shall be provided where required by fire regulations	Shall be provided where required by fire regulations	Shall be provided for huts with a sleeping capacity of 6+ where required by fire regulations	Shall be provided for huts with a sleeping capacity of 6+ where required by fire regulations	
Soft Furnishings	No	No	No	No	
Carbon Monoxide Warning Notice	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	
Intentions Book	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	
Information for Users Notice (including safety information)	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	Should be provided	

	BCC		BCA		RS
Service/Facility	Great Walk huts	Serviced huts	Standard huts	Basic huts	
Interpretation	Should be provided where there are issues/features of significance	Should be provided where there are issues/features of significance	May be provided where there are issues/features of significance	May be provided where there are issues/features of high significance	
“No Smoking” Sign	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	May be provided	No	
Hut Name Sign	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	Should be provided	
<u>Furniture/Drying Facilities</u> Seats and Tables	Shall be provided Length of 400 to 500mm of seating and table should be provided per person	Shall be provided Length of 400 to 500mm of seating and table should be provided per person	Shall be provided Huts with sleeping capacity <5 should have tables & seating if practicable. Length of 300 to 500mm of seating and table should be provided per person.	May be provided	
Pots/Utensils	No (existing pots/utensils may stay but shall not be replaced)	No (existing pots/utensils may stay but shall not be replaced)	No (existing pots/utensils may stay but shall not be replaced)	No (existing pots/utensils may stay but shall not be replaced)	
Drying Rooms	No	No	No	No	
Drying “Facilities” (ie hooks, lines, racks etc)	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	May be provided	
<u>Cleaning</u> Cleaning Requirements (hut and toilets)	Daily (during peak season). Spring-clean once a year	BCC huts – clean (during peak season) according to a bednight frequency formula. BCA huts - clean at least every 6 months Spring-clean once a year Serviced-Alpine huts – clean at least once a year	Spring clean once a year	Spring-clean during regular hut inspection	
Broom, brush and pan	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	Shall be provided	May be provided	

	BCC		BCA		RS
Service/Facility	Great Walk huts	Serviced huts	Standard huts	Basic huts	
Provide cleaning materials (cleaning fluids, cloths etc)	Shall be provided	BCC huts – Shall be provided BCA and Serviced-Alpine huts - cloths shall be provided but cleaning fluids are not provided	Cloths may be supplied Cleaning fluids - No	Cloths may be supplied Cleaning fluids - No	
Wardens Provide wardens (at one or more huts on track)	Shall be provided during peak season	BCC huts -Shall be provided during peak season where revenue exceeds costs BCA huts – Shall be provided only at times of the year when revenue exceeds costs At Serviced-Alpine huts, wardens should not be provided	No	No	
Services provided by wardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hut fee compliance Information to users Operate radio for safety of users Clean toilets/huts Wardens may also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake minor hut maintenance Provide interpretation services for hut users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hut fee compliance Information to users Operate radio (if there is one) for safety In addition, at BCC huts only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean toilets/huts Wardens may also provide interpretation services for hut users	N/A	N/A	
Food sales	No	No	No	No	

	BCC		BCA		RS
Service/Facility	Great Walk huts	Serviced huts	Standard huts	Basic huts	
Actively managed historic huts	Variations or exceptions to any of the requirements of the standards set out above may be agreed for huts formally designated as actively managed historic assets, provided the health and safety of hut users is not compromised.	Variations or exceptions to any of the requirements of the standards set out above may be agreed for huts formally designated as actively managed historic assets, provided the health and safety of hut users is not compromised.	Variations or exceptions to any of the requirements of the standards set out above may be agreed for huts formally designated as actively managed historic assets, provided the health and safety of hut users is not compromised.	Variations or exceptions to any of the requirements of the standards set out above may be agreed for huts formally designated as actively managed historic assets, provided the health and safety of hut users is not compromised.	
Visitor information on huts	Specified items shall be included in pre-visit information on Great Walk huts	Specified items shall be included in pre-visit information on Serviced and Serviced-Alpine huts	Specified items shall be included in pre-visit information on Standard huts	Specified items shall be included in pre-visit information on Basic huts and bivvies	

Appendix 1 – Definitions

Hut	Fully enclosed building designed to provide overnight sleeping accommodation for users of the backcountry.
Great Walk Huts	Huts on the 8 Great Walks (Milford, Routeburn, Rakiura, Kepler, Abel Tasman Coast, Heaphy, Tongariro Northern Circuit, Waikaremoana) and the Whanganui Journey huts.
Serviced Huts	Huts generally catering for Backcountry Comfort Seekers, or less experienced Backcountry Adventurers on Easy Tramping Tracks or Tramping Tracks. They have a moderate to high level of use and a level of service higher than Standard huts (in particular provision of heating when above the bush-line, heating fuel, wardens and a higher level of cleaning).
Serviced-Alpine Huts	Alpine huts catering for Backcountry Adventurers/climbers in Aoraki/Mt Cook, Westland and Mt Aspiring National Parks. Their alpine location and function as a base for climbers distinguish them from other Serviced huts.
Standard Huts	Huts catering for Backcountry Adventurers that do not have the level of use or the services provided at Serviced huts. The huts will have mattresses, a toilet, and, if below the bush-line, may have heating, but will not have heating fuel, wardens and a number of other minor services and facilities.
Basic Huts	Basic huts and bivvies provide overnight accommodation, somewhere to cook and sleep, and very little else. They cater for Backcountry Adventurers or Remoteness Seekers.
Bivvy	A backcountry hut that an adult cannot stand up in and that has only enough floor area to sleep a maximum of two or three people. The name “bivvy” or “biv” is to be reserved for these buildings alone. All bivvies are Basic huts.
Dilapidated Huts	Huts that are not weatherproof, or that are in such a poor state of repair that they cannot be brought up to the standard for a Basic or Standard hut without a considerable amount of work. These huts shall either be brought up to at least the Basic standard or shall be removed.
Huts With Cookers	As at 2004, the following huts met the requirements of these standards and have cookers (during the part of the year that they are Great Walk or Serviced huts): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Heaphy Great Walk huts (5)- Routeburn Great Walk huts (4)- Milford Great Walk huts (3)- Kepler Great Walk huts (3)- Tongariro Northern Circuit Great Walk huts (4)- Te Puia, Longview, Sunrise, Rangiwahia (Kawekas, Ruahines)- Pinnacles (Coromandel)- Cape Brett, Lane Cove (Northland)- Totara Flats, Tutuwai, Mitre Flats, Powell, Jumbo (Tararuas)- Fenella, Balloon, Salisbury (Kahurangi National Park)- Whakahoro, John Coull, Tieke (Whanganui Journey)- Aspiring – NZ Alpine Club (West Matukituki Valley)- Plateau (new), Mueller (Aoraki/Mt Cook)

Appendix 2 – Hut Categories

Examples of huts in each of the categories.



Great Walk
hut (Panekiri)

Serviced – Alpine
hut (Mueller)



Serviced hut
(Powell)

Standard hut
(Mt Fell)



Basic hut/bivvy
(Top Crawford
biv)