

Kwazulu-Natal Department Of Health
Pharmaceutical Services

Minimum Requirements for Pharmacies

Specification for Fixtures

The Underlying Principles

All fixtures should be of durable materials, but most importantly, be able to withstand regular washing to both ensure and maintain cleanliness. They must resist staining and scratching. Further, any cracks, loose, peeling or flaking paint or coatings, must be excluded.

Specific matters

1. Counter tops

- a. Must be smooth and of adequate size, as determined by the staff working in the area, see (d.) below.
- b. They must be finished in a washable and impermeable material which is easy to maintain in a hygienic condition.
- c. Joins and cut edges must be correctly sealed to prevent penetration by liquids or dust.
- d. A clear working surface area of 90 x 100cm must be provided for each pharmacist or other registered person working there.
- e. They must be stable, supported either on top of a “kitchen-type unit”, or adequately secured to the wall.
- f. Formica or similar materials are generally suitable for use, however, in manufacturing, prepacking and sterile suites, a suitable grade of stainless steel would be preferable.
- g. Height must follow the industry standard of 920mm.
- h. Width must follow the industry standard of 600mm, unless specified differently.
- i. Where the worker is intended to be seated, the height should be 720mm.

2. Cupboards or Units

- a. “Kitchen-type” units are most suitable.
- b. They must be finished in a washable and impermeable material which is easy to maintain in a hygienic condition.
- c. Joins and cut edges must be correctly sealed to prevent penetration by liquids or dust.
- d. They must be stable, adequately secured to the wall.
- e. Melamine or similar materials are generally suitable for use,
- f. Doors and drawers must be edged where necessary.
- g. Doors may often be better left off (depending on where situated) so as to increase access for medicines storage.

3. Shelving

- a) The shelving should be of metal, that is epoxy powder coated, and be washable.**
- b) The shelving must be adjustable.**
- c) Size and height need to be appropriate for the particular circumstance. They should not be higher than 2,1 m.**
- d) There should be 8 shelves per bank, with the top not being utilized as a shelf, but leaving 7 spaces, and at a 300mm spacing.**
- e) For Bulk Stores, the depth of the shelf should be 450mm.**
- f) For Open Stock, the depth of the shelf should be 300mm.**
- g) Shelving that is over counter-tops may be mounted on wall-bands.**
- h) All other shelving should be freestanding & self-supporting units. Suitable backing sheets are required to stabilize the fixture, and prevent stock falling down the back. Where the unit stands against a wall, attachment to the wall may be desirable if it can lend further stability.**
- i) No medicines are to be stored directly on the floor – see “5. Pallets” below.**
- j) Shelving inside fridges does attract condensate, which leads to rusting. They should therefore be stainless steel, both the shelves and the uprights.**

4. Island units

- a. These are sometimes used as a combination of both work-surface and shelving space, but often compromise shelf space.**
- b. They should be unattached and movable.**
- c. They should provide optimal shelving space for medicines.**
- d. Separate worktops and shelving units may be preferable, where space is limited.**

5. Pallets

- a. Pallets may be used to store bulky cartons of medicines, where the volumes dictate.**
- b. Sufficient space must be allowed within the store area for the numbers of pallets required.**
- c. Sufficient space must be allowed around the pallets to allow a pallet truck to maneuver into position.**

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Version 1.5
Reviewed: 20 December 2010