

Part B - Health Facility Briefing and Planning

490 MORTUARY UNIT

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INTRODUCTION

Description

- 490 .2.00 A Mortuary Unit is a facility for the holding of bodies, and for the viewing of bodies by authorised persons. The conducting of Post Mortems/Autopsies may or may not be included, depending on the Operational Policy of the hospital.

PLANNING

Functional Areas

- 490 .3.00 The Mortuary Unit will consist of the following Functional Areas depending on the size of the facility and the Operational Policy:
- Entry and clerical area
 - Body Holding area
 - Clean-Up Area
 - Waiting
 - Viewing Area.

490 .4.00 AUTOPSY FACILITIES

The following elements shall be provided when autopsies are performed in the hospital:

- Refrigerated facilities for body-holding
- An Autopsy Room containing the following
 - a work counter with a sink and handbasin
 - storage space for supplies, equipment, and specimens
 - an autopsy table
 - a deep sink for washing of specimens
- A cleaner's sink and storage of cleaning supplies.

Functional Relationships

- 490 .5.00 Mortuary / Holding facilities shall be accessible through an exterior entrance and shall be located to avoid the need for transporting bodies through public areas.

COMPONENTS OF THE UNIT

Introduction

- 490 .6.00 The Mortuary Unit will contain a combination of Standard Components and Non-Standard Components, according to the Level of Service.

Standard Components must comply with details in the Standard Components described in these Guidelines. Refer also to Standard Components Room Data Sheets.

Standard Components

- 490 .7.00 Provide the Standard Components as identified in the Generic Schedules of Accommodation.

Non-Standard Components

- 490 .8.00 Provide the Non-Standard Components as identified in this section and in the Schedule of Accommodation, according to the Operational Policy and Functional Brief.

- 490 .9.00 BODY HOLDING ROOM

DESCRIPTION AND FUNCTION

As a minimum, every Hospital shall have a Holding Room for deceased patients that is not less than 1800 mm wide x 2400 mm deep.

- 490 .10.00 LOCATION AND RELATIONSHIPS

The Holding Room shall have or be located adjacent to an external doorway giving access to a driveway. It should have ready access to the Viewing Area and Autopsy area if provided.

- 490 .11.00 CONSIDERATIONS

The Holding Room shall include a handbasin and storage facilities for gowns and bags.

The room shall be fitted with permanent ventilation.

- 490 .12.00 VIEWING ROOM

DESCRIPTION AND FUNCTION

A Viewing Room or area is recommended, and should allow for discreet viewing of bodies by relatives or other authorised personnel.

The Viewing Room shall be a minimum of 10 m².

- 490 .13.00 LOCATION AND RELATIONSHIPS

The Viewing Room should be located with ready access to Waiting Areas, Public Amenities and Body Holding areas.

- 490 .14.00 CONSIDERATIONS

The room should contain a viewing window with privacy screening.

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APPENDICES

Mortuary Generic Schedule of Accommodation

490.15.00 Schedule of Accommodation for a Mortuary / Holding area at levels 2 to 6:

ROOM / SPACE	Standard Component	Level 2 Qty x m2	Level 3 Qty x m2	Level 4 Qty x m2	Level 5 Qty x m2	Level 6 Qty x m2	Remarks
AUTOPSY ROOM				1 x 25 optional	2 x 25 optional	2 x 25 optional	Levels 5/6 areas include space for 2 mortuary tables
BODY HOLDING ROOM		1 x 12	1 x 12	1 x 20	1 x 35	1 x 50	Allow 3.5 m2 per Body Holding Bay; include space for trolley hoist and weighing equip
CHANGE ROOM - STAFF	yes		1 x 8 optional	1 x 8	1 x 8	1 x 8	
CLEANER'S ROOM	yes		1 x 4 optional	1 x 4 optional	1 x 4	1 x 4	
CLEAN-UP ROOM	yes			1 x 10	1 x 10	1 x 10	
ENTRY LOBBY			1 x 7 optional	1 x 7	1 x 7	1 x 7	
EXIT LOBBY				1 x 7 optional	1 x 7 optional	1 x 7 optional	
OFFICE - WORKSTATION	yes		1 x 6 optional	1 x 6 optional	1 x 6 optional	1 x 6 optional	May be located near entry
POLICE / PATHOLOGY AREA					1 x 9 optional	1 x 9 optional	
RECEPTION	yes				1 x 10	1 x 10	
VIEWING ROOM			1 x 10 optional	1 x 10 optional	1 x 10	1 x 10	
WAITING	yes				1 x 10	1 x 10	
CIRCULATION %		15	15	15	15	15	

490.16.00 SHARED AREAS

ROOM / SPACE	Standard Component	Level 2 Qty x m2	Level 3 Qty x m2	Level 4 Qty x m2	Level 5 Qty x m2	Level 6 Qty x m2	Remarks
SHOWER - STAFF	yes			1 x 2	1 x 2	1 x 2	
TOILET - PUBLIC	yes				1 x 3	1 x 3	
TOILET - STAFF	yes			1 x 2	1 x 2	1 x 2	

References and Further Reading

- 490.17.00
- American Institute of Architects, Guidelines for Design & Construction of Hospital & Healthcare Facilities, 1997.
 - Department of Human Services, Victoria, Design Guidelines for Private Hospital Buildings, 1987.
 - Health Department Western Australia, Private Hospital Guidelines, 1998.

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FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS DIAGRAM - MORTUARY UNIT

