

## Surgical Suite Minimum Design Standards

### General Operating Rooms

Operating rooms are where surgical procedures are performed under strict sterile techniques. The number of operating rooms and the sizes of the service area should be based on the anticipated surgical workload and should be different for each facility. The layout provided shows the spatial relationships of the operating rooms and the required service areas. It also shows the minimum space requirements for operating rooms in accordance with applicable codes.

For new construction:

- Required minimum clear area: **400 square feet**
- Minimum clear dimension between fixed cabinets and built-in shelves: **20 feet**.

### Special Procedures Operating Rooms

For special procedures that require additional personnel and/or large equipment shall conform to the following standards:

For new construction:

- Minimum clear area of rooms: **600 square feet**
- Minimum clear dimension between fixed cabinets and built-in shelves: **20 feet**.

Rooms for surgical cystoscopic and other endo-urologic procedures shall conform to the following standards:

- Minimum clear area of rooms for these rooms: **350 square feet**.
- Minimum clear dimension between fixed cabinets and built-in shelves: **15 feet**.

In facilities with two or more operating rooms, the following areas shall be provided:

### Preoperative holding area

This area is provided to accommodate stretcher patients as well as sitting space for ambulatory patients not requiring stretchers.

### Post-Anesthetic Care Units

This area is adjacent to the operating rooms and is where patients are brought after surgery to recover from anesthesia and until they regain stable vital signs.

- Minimum area per patient bed: **80 square feet**.
- Minimum clearance between patient beds and between patient beds and adjacent walls: **4 feet**

### Service areas:

- Control station
- Office Area
- Sterilizing facilities/Work Area
- Medication station/Med Preparation
- Scrub facilities
- Soiled workroom
- Clean workroom or clean supply room
- Medical gas storage
- Equipment storage room
- Staff clothing change areas
- Housekeeping facilities



Sources: **Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospital and Health Care Facilities (2001 Edition)**  
The American Institute of Architects Academy of Architecture for Health

**ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG).**  
As amended through January 1998

