

203

TELEPHONE CABINETS

General Instructions Relating to Provision

★[NOTE:—As this Instruction has been completely revised, individual paragraphs have not been “starred”]

1. Scope of Instruction.—This Instruction outlines the general principles relating to provision of telephone cabinets. Instructions to which reference will be necessary for details are as follows:—

Details of various stock types of cabinets	B 1002
“ “ “ “ special types, and suites of cabinets	B 1003
Erection instructions	B 3001
Decoration	B 3002
Lighting arrangements	A 3008
Ventilation	B 3001
Standard equipments for public call offices and subscribers’ circuits fitted with coin-collecting boxes	D 3001 et seq.
Sale and rental of cabinets	Stores, General, K 0011
Recoveries	STORES, Workmen’s Procedure, J 0602
Instruction and tariff cards, etc.	A 3006
Signs	A 3005
Recessed call offices	A 3010

2. General.—Telephone cabinets are installed in post offices, on railway stations and in other buildings for the accommodation of call-office equipment for public use: cabinets may also be supplied to subscribers—on sale or rental terms—to accommodate a subscriber’s coin-collecting box equipment (see STORES, General, K 0011). Telephone cabinets are normally provided and erected by the engineering staff. In Class I Crown Offices, however, cabinets or parts of cabinets may be provided and erected by the Ministry of Works.

3. Provision.

(a) *Standard cabinets* are Rate Book items, but details of the various stock types are given in B 1002. Demands should be met when possible from surplus stock held within the Region, or a requisition placed with the Supplies Dept. (Birmingham Depot), to whom surplus cabinets held in other Regions will have been reported. (STORES, Office Procedure, C 0011 refers.) Where non-standard decoration is required but, in other respects, a Rate Book item is suitable, the work may be performed locally. Local modifications, other than the addition of mouldings or surrounds, should not be made to the structure of the cabinets.

(b) *Suites* will normally be constructed to suit each case. Typical layouts are shown on Drawings 60875 and 60876, and specified in Specn. D 1409. It may, however, be possible to utilize a recovered suite. The Supplies Dept. (Birmingham Depot) will be able to advise whether a suitable one is held.

(c) *Special cabinets* will be constructed to meet those cases where local requirements necessitate a non-standard design as regards any of the following:—

- (i) Timber
- (ii) Glazing or door arrangements
- (iii) Decorative treatment which cannot be applied to a Rate Book cabinet.

A typical layout is obtained from Drawings 60875, 60876 and specified in Specn. D 1409.

(d) *Recovered cabinets.* When a single cabinet is replaced by a suite, or a small suite by a larger one, etc., the recovered items should be dealt with as described in STORES, Workmen’s Procedure, J 0602.

Single cabinets should not, in any circumstances, be lined-up to form a suite.

4. Construction.

(a) *Suites* will be constructed in convenient sections for erection on site and local requirements in this connexion should be stated when requisitioning (see par. 9).

(b) *Cabinets* should be complete in themselves, whether singly or in suites, as the use of structural walls or floors to form part of the fabric involves special fitting work on site and may give rise to acoustic difficulties. A recessed type of call office can however be provided (see A 3010).

(c) *Doors.* *Folding-door construction should be regarded as standard.* This type of door does not cause any obstruction, ensures that the cabinet is ventilated when unoccupied, and incorporates an emergency arrangement by which the door can be opened from outside. “Cabinets, Telephone, Two-door”—described in B 1002—are for use where folding doors are impracticable as in a post office where the call-office is used by the public and the counter attendant. Normally-hinged doors may be provided to meet special architectural conditions or where the situation calls for an exceptional degree of soundproofing.

It is important that all emergency flaps are uniform. To this end, a catch has been selected which is efficient, simple to operate, and cheap, and is coded “Turn-button No. 1”. This catch should be used for all new work, and any flap that requires repair should be fitted with it. The typical drawings incorporate a change in the method of fitting the channelling for the door runners, which should greatly reduce breakage of the flap. This change, too, should be introduced when repair of the emergency flap is required. Folding-door cabinets should have labels fitted in accordance with A 3006.

Distribution:—B 4, 49, 111

(d) *Glazed partitions* are normally fitted in suites of cabinets, and provide a degree of natural lighting. They also improve observation facilities.

(e) *Ventilation*. The method of ventilating a cabinet is described in B 3001. Openings are provided under the door and in the double roof. Cabinets built-in or recessed in such a manner that a cavity is formed above the roof should be so arranged that the cavity is well ventilated. When this cannot be arranged, or when the cabinets are completely closed in, ventilator openings should be provided in the front at the top of each cabinet.

(f) *Lighting arrangements* are described in A 3008 and B 3903.

5. Minimum site dimensions.—Rate Book items referred to in sub-par. 3 (a) are dimensioned to take a "Wallboard D 60577" (Dgm. EC 1851). When the special types of cabinet or suite referred to in sub-par. 3 (b) and (c) are required, the minimum site dimensions specified should be such that a "Wallboard D 60577" can be fitted. In the past, cabinets too small to take the standard wallboard were constructed and, to equip these, a "Wallboard D 63747" was introduced. A small stock of these is held for replacement purposes, but new cabinets that will not take a Wallboard D 60577 should not be constructed because smaller cabinets lead to complaints from the public and increase maintenance difficulties. Cabinets in magneto areas which are fitted with a wallboard to Dgm. EC 1586 will be large enough to take a standard wallboard, when transferred to another system.

6. Cabinets in Crown Offices.—Drawings will be submitted by the Ministry of Works to the T.M. (Eng. Divn.), either direct or via the R.D. or D.P.O. (S. and B.B.). The T.M. (Eng. Divn.) will check

these plans to ensure that the cabinets conform to all the engineering requirements and will, if necessary, refer any special cases of difficulty to the R.D. or D.P.O. (Eng. Beh.).

7. Cabinets at Railway Stations.—An agreement exists between the Railway Executive and the P.O. for all call-office cabinets to be supplied by the latter. Where a single cabinet is required, it should normally be a "Cabinet, Telephone, Standard Folding-door". If, however, the Railway Executive require a single cabinet to match the architectural surroundings, or two or more to form a suite, particulars of the proposals will be supplied by the Railway Executive's Architect. The T.M. (Eng. Divn.) should co-operate closely with the Railway Executive's Architect in the planning and design stage, to ensure that P.O. requirements are not overlooked.

8. Other Authorities' Premises.—The T.M. (Eng. Divn.) should obtain particulars of cabinets from the appropriate authority and maintain close collaboration during the design and planning stage to ensure that all P.O. requirements are covered.

9. The procedure for obtaining special cabinets or suites is given in B 1003. The construction of these special cabinets or suites requires a minimum period of six months and the T.M. (Eng. Divn.) should, therefore, keep in touch with the building work and the appropriate authorities in the Area, so that adequate notice of special requirements can be given to all concerned.

10. Decoration is dealt with in B 3002.

11. Queries and Suggestions.—R.D.s and D.P.O.s (Eng. Behs.) should refer any queries they are unable to resolve, and any suggestions for improvements in the typical standards quoted, to the Eng. Dept. (S1/3).

References :—A 3005, A 3006, A 3008, A 3010, B 1002, B 1003, B 3001, B 3002, B 3903, D 3001
(S1/3) POWER, Lighting, A 3101
STORES, Gen., K 0011
" Office Procedure, C 0011
" Workmen's Procedure, J 0602

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