



Visit Wales
Croeso Cymru

**A Guide to the Visit Wales
Holiday Villages
Star Grading Scheme**



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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Welcome to the Visit Wales Quality Assurance Standards

Improving quality standards

Having a quality accommodation product to offer customers is integral to achieving a world class competitive industry in Wales. Visit Wales wants to work with the industry in Wales to make sure that our accommodation remains competitive with other tourism destinations. To achieve a quality product all elements of the tourism experience, from the initial enquiry until departure for home, must meet or exceed consumer expectations.

Raising accommodation standards is crucial to the future development of tourism in Wales, so we encourage you to work with Visit Wales through our grading scheme which sets identical standards to those operated in England.

The benefits

Visit Wales's Quality Assurance schemes are great value for money offering a number of benefits. By joining, you get promotional opportunities such as:

Listing on **www.visitwales.com** and **www.visit britain.com** web sites, as well as access to Visit Wales publications and marketing campaigns.

Detailed assessment debrief and follow up report from experienced Quality Assessors. Entry into the Tourist Information Centre network.

- Display certificate showing your Star rating.
- Signs if you want them.
- Access to Business Support.
- Regular communication from Visit Wales.

INTRODUCTION

General

It is vital that visitors are able to make an informed choice about where to stay and equally vital that holiday Villages in this country should provide the quality that visitors want.

Development of the Standard

Initially it was anticipated that the Standard would mirror the British Graded Holiday Parks Standard.

The developing nature of the product, and the diversity of the types of facilities and accommodation that are provided, means that some differences have had to be included.

The current standard has been developed in conjunction with the Holiday Centres Association following consultation and pilot exercises in England. The main difference being that as well as looking at the quality of all the facilities, **hospitality, services offered and the quality of different types of accommodation are assessed.**

This standard has been assessed in England for many years but demand has only arisen in Wales for the year 2008.

The Wales Tourism Alliance was consulted on the introduction of the Holiday Village grading in Wales.

Holiday village accommodation encompasses both serviced and self catering units such as caravan holiday homes, chalets and apartments.

Definition: A Holiday Village usually comprises of a variety of types of accommodation with the majority provided in custom-built rooms (e.g. Chalet, Hotel rooms - there can be caravans) on a large complex. A range of facilities and activities are also available which may or may not be included in the tariff.

The Standard

Visit Wales will operate the scheme in Wales.

In order to be awarded a rating in the Holiday Village standard an establishment will usually comprise of a variety of types of accommodation, with the **majority** provided in custom built rooms (e.g. chalets, hotel rooms). A range of facilities and activities will also be available which may, or may not, be included with the tariff.

The general requirements and the assessment process follow.

It should be noted that the grading will not be reviewed in the immediate future as the BGHPS is to be reviewed first.

DESIGNATORS:

Holiday Village: A Holiday Village usually comprises of a variety of accommodation, often purpose built; and with a range of entertainment, activities and facilities available on site free of charge or at extra cost. Bookings are often taken for 3 days, 4 days or a week.

Forest

Holiday Village: A Holiday Village, which is situated in a forest setting with conservation and sustainable tourism being a key feature. It will usually comprise of a variety of accommodation, often purpose built, and with a range of entertainment, activities and facilities available on site free of charge or at extra cost. Bookings are often taken for 3 days, 4 days or a week.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

It is the responsibility of every proprietor to ensure that all relevant statutory obligations currently in force are being fulfilled, and Visit Wales will ask for a signed confirmation, at grading application time and renewal of participation, that this is so. Also, Visit Wales requires every proprietor to provide evidence that Public Liability Cover has been taken out and is being maintained (appropriate to the size of the village and number of guests catered for).

All accommodation and facilities must fulfil the relevant requirements of the statutory obligations, where applicable, including:

- Fire precautions
 - Consumer Protection Legislation
 - Food safety
 - Licensing
 - Health and Safety
 - Trade Descriptions
 - Disability Discrimination
- Electrical and oil-fired equipment must be safely maintained in good working order and serviced regularly in accordance with the relevant legislation and as required by law. As required by law, a current landlord's safety certificate confirming that all gas installations have been checked by a CORGI registered installer within the last 12 months must be held.
 - Any caravan holiday homes must have been constructed to comply with European safety standards, and be fully serviced with water, drainage, gas/electricity connections including mains WC, shower and/or bath.

Welcome and arrival

- The operation must have reception arrangements for receiving guests at appropriate times from which visitors can be directed to their room / caravan / chalet / pitch, and where advice and assistance can be obtained if necessary.
- The operation must be well managed and maintained in a clean and presentable manner. Attention to be given to the road sign and entrance to the site.

Health and safety

A high degree of general safety and security to be maintained.

- A proprietary first aid kit must be readily available in accommodation.
- Emergency notices must be prominently displayed giving details and location of operation contact, telephone, doctor, fire service, local hospital and other essential services. These could be provided in the accommodation and at reception.
- The operation must have fire fighting equipment and notices subject to the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order 2005, which requires each property/business to have a fire risk assessment carried out by the owner/responsible person with subsequent action taken as appropriate to remove and reduce the risk.
- All electrical installations both internally and externally must have the appropriate safety classification.
- Adequate provision to be made for refuse disposal.

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The marking system of Holiday Villages places a greater emphasis on the essential element of cleanliness, which was highlighted in the VB consumer research as central to the enjoyment of the stay/visit. Each aspect of the facilities and accommodation will be assessed on a 1 - 5 basis as follows and results in an overall percentage - the pass bands of which are also given:

Quality scores	Percentages needed for 1-5 stars	
• 1 = Acceptable	1 Star	40% - 48%
• 2 = Quite Good	2 Stars	49% - 60%
• 3 = Good	3 Stars	61% - 72%
• 4 = Very Good	4 Stars	73% - 84%
• 5 = Excellent	5 Stars	85% - 100%

Failure to achieve a score of '1' in any area will preclude the operation from receiving a rating.

The areas for assessment are:

- Reception (including service & hospitality)
- Shops/salons
- Entertainment rooms (including service & hospitality)
- Licensed areas (including service & hospitality)
- Restaurants/food outlets (including service & hospitality)
- Sports facilities
- Recreation/play areas
- Village facilities
- Atmosphere and ambience
- Accommodation
- Touring facilities (if applicable)

(Greater detail is provided in the following pages)

As service and hospitality are assessed, a stay of one or two nights is needed, depending on the number of facilities and food outlets in the Village. All expenses are borne by the Holiday Village and grading will be incognito. However, as the consumer stay is usually of 4 days or more, it is usual for Senior Management to arrange a 1 or 2 night stay while the rest of the Village staff are unaware of the assessment.

N.B. Cleanliness, Service and efficiency and Hospitality and friendliness carry double the weight of the other scores.

Minimum entry requirements

To be recognised within this standard any operation must meet all the minimum entry requirements listed throughout this booklet.

5 Star Qualifiers

To a 5 Star rating, in addition to providing excellent levels of quality, the following minimum facilities must be provided:

- 1) Linen (including towels) provided free of charge.
- 2) All units to be heated in all rooms, with a heating system with automatic, thermostatic and individual controls.

- 3) Additional WC with basin and bath/shower where more than 6 guests are accommodated (WC may be separate to bathroom).

Quality indicators

Within the section on accommodation examples are given of the level of quality expected to achieve a quality score from 1 - 5 for each area. Where phrases such as acceptable, good, very good etc are used, these signify ascending levels of quality in broad terms only. They are deliberately non-specific, recognising the wide variety of quality elements that could be included.

The 'Quality Indicators' represent typical expectations. They are neither definitive nor exhaustive.

The rating level actually awarded will allow for a balanced view of the facilities and accommodation provided.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	Factors which indicate the minimum level of acceptability quality		Factors which indicate a Quality Score of 3 (Good)		Factors which indicate a Quality Score of 5 (Excellent)

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR OPERATORS

GENERAL

Where more than one of any type of facility is provided - shops, recreation & leisure, clubs, bars, etc - each will be assessed individually and an “average” assessment reflecting the general, overall quality, will be made.

CLEANLINESS

The cleanliness of all facilities is one of the most important aspects of the scheme. To achieve the highest marks, the assessors will be looking for pristine conditions, although the weather and condition of the site at the time of assessment will be taken into consideration.

Accumulated litter, dust and grime are easily recognised. Particular attention should be paid to areas beneath and behind all fixed equipment, corners and skirting, paint work, windows, ledges, pipes, extractor fans, light fittings, walls and floors. Where an unacceptable standard of cleanliness is found in any area a rating might NOT be awarded.

RECEPTION

Reception can range from a purpose built facility to a shared function facility. It may also include “Guest Services” throughout the Village.

If a reception facility is not provided an assessment will still be made on the “Welcome & Efficiency of Service” and “Brochure content and accuracy” aspects only.

Cleanliness

- See above.

Interior layout and size

- The assessor will be looking for good quality flooring and furnishings, decoration and interior design. Good circulation space for visitors will be taken into account as will the provision of seating. The reception area should be inviting and pleasing to the eye - the customer’s first impression is very important.

Décor and maintenance

- Must be well maintained and attractive. Again, first impressions are important.

Welcome and efficiency of service

- It is important that attention can be summoned quickly and that service is “given with a smile”. Assistance by showing the customer to the room, chalet or caravan holiday home, and the availability of reception services, will be taken into consideration.

Hospitality & Friendliness.

Levels of courtesy and levels of social interaction and conversation.

Brochure content and accuracy

- Designed to assess the pre-arrival impression customers receive, this aspect may include a test phone call made by the assessor to acquire a brochure and give them the opportunity to follow the map. The time taken to receive the information may be noted as well as how well the brochure reflects the operation and its facilities.

SHOPS/SALONS

When assessing the shop(s)/salon(s), the assessor will give special consideration to the type and size of operation.

Cleanliness

- See page 6.

Interior layout

- The assessor will be looking for sufficient circulation space for the likely number of customers/users, coupled with the quality and convenience of the layout and display of merchandise.

Décor and maintenance

- Must be well maintained and attractive to achieve high marks.

Fittings and Flooring

- An assessment will be made of the quality and condition of the fixtures and fittings and flooring, as appropriate to the facility.

ENTERTAINMENT ROOMS

As with other facilities, where there is more than one entertainment room, an 'average' assessment will be made.

Cleanliness

- See page 6.

Interior layout

- The assessor will be looking for sufficient circulation space for the likely number of users, coupled with the quality and convenience of the layout. Plenty of space to move between tables and chairs will be viewed in a more positive light, as will a layout which allows most guests a good view of the stage.

Décor and maintenance

- Must be well maintained and attractive. May be more elaborate than other areas.

Furniture and Fittings

- An assessment will be made of the quality, comfort provided and condition and maintenance of the furniture and fittings. This will include tables, seating, bar or servery counters within the entertainment rooms, light fittings and flooring etc.

Service & Efficiency

- An assessment will be made of the quality and standard of service as appropriate to the style of operation. Staff should be competent, efficient and display very good levels of customer care.

Hospitality & Friendliness

- Levels of courtesy and levels of social interaction and conversation.

LICENSED AREAS

As with other facilities, where there is more than one licensed area an 'average' assessment will be made.

Cleanliness

- See page 6.

Interior layout

- The assessor will look for quality of decoration, maintenance of walls, floors, seating, tables, bar counters, furnishings and circulation space. Flair, design and layout as well as plants, flowers, pictures etc. carefully selected and positioned will be taken into account.

Décor and maintenance

- Must be well maintained and attractive.

Furniture and Fittings

- An assessment will be made of the quality & comfort provided, condition and maintenance of the furniture and fittings. This will include tables, seating and bar or serving counters.

Service

- An assessment will be made of the quality and standard of service as appropriate to the style of operation. Staff should be competent, efficient and display very good levels of customer care.

Hospitality & Friendliness

- Levels of courtesy and levels of social interaction and conversation.

RESTAURANTS AND FOOD OUTLETS

As with other facilities, for all such outlets in this section, an 'average' assessment will be made. However, consideration will be given to the use and importance of the facility in the context of the operation. For example, if there are two facilities in this section, e.g. a large restaurant providing half-board and a small takeaway counter, then the assessment will reflect the greater importance of the restaurant.

Cleanliness

- See page 6.

Interior layout

- The assessor will look for quality of decoration, maintenance of walls, floors, seating, tables and furnishings and circulation space. Flair, design and layout as well as plants, flowers, pictures etc. carefully selected and positioned will be taken into account.

Décor and maintenance

- Must be well maintained and attractive.

Furniture and Fittings

- An assessment will be made of the quality, comfort provided and condition and maintenance of the fixtures and fittings. This will include tables, seating, serving counters, light fittings and flooring etc.

Range of Foods

The range of foods available and variety provided on menus will be assessed. Style of operation and type of market will be taken into account.

Service

- An assessment will be made of the quality and standard of service as appropriate to the style of the operation. Staff should provide a competent service and have a helpful attitude. A service which is prompt and efficient with high levels of customer care and good technical skills will be viewed positively.

Hospitality & Friendliness

- Levels of courtesy and levels of social interaction and conversation.

SPORTING FACILITIES

This section includes more formalized facilities whether indoor or outdoor e.g. tennis courts, short mat bowls, badminton and squash courts, crown green bowls etc.

Cleanliness

- See page 6.

Layout

- The equipment and facility as a whole should be of a size commensurate with the activity and imaginatively designed and positioned. Likely usage in relation to size will also be taken into account.

Quality and Maintenance of the Buildings/Facilities and Maintenance of Equipment

- These aspects form two separate items in the assessment. In both cases the assessor will take into account both the intrinsic quality of the provision as well as how well it has been maintained.

RECREATION FACILITIES

This section includes less formalized facilities whether indoor or outdoor e.g. amusement arcades, ten pin bowling, pool/snooker rooms, children's play areas and leisure or fun pools.

Cleanliness

- See page 6.

Layout

- The equipment and facility as a whole should be of a size commensurate with the activity and imaginatively designed and positioned. Likely usage in relation to size will also be taken into account.

Quality and Maintenance of the Buildings/Facilities and Maintenance of Equipment

- These aspects form two separate items in the assessment. In both cases the assessor will take into account both the intrinsic quality of the provision as well as how well it has been maintained.

SITE FACILITIES

Although their provision is not essential, subject to Health and Safety requirements, each of the following will be assessed when present.

Range and Quality of Lighting

- The provision of lighting in the correct relationship to the size, type and location of the operation. It can be discreet, thereby not spoiling the atmosphere, but should be sufficient for safety and security. Large sites with a number of pathways and roads, those which are well-wooded or where accommodation is some distance from the central facilities, will require more lighting than those sites which are small and open. The lack of adequate lighting will have a negative effect on the assessment.

Range and Quality of Signs

- Clear, well maintained signs on all facilities and the provision of good directional signs where necessary, will be viewed as positive factors.

Quality of Fire-points

- Where provided or required, fire-points and equipment should be effectively designed and well maintained. Clear instructions for use in the event of a fire, and the location of the nearest telephone, will be looked for.

Range & Quality of Refuse Facilities

- The assessor will look for clean, well designed and maintained facilities, which are tastefully screened. This applies to any bins or refuse points on the site. The provision and quality of areas for the storage of refuse prior to collection, which should be protected from attack by animals and birds, will also be considered.

Public Telephones

- The assessment will reflect the cleanliness, general maintenance, degree of shelter and privacy, lighting, availability and provision of directories and dialing codes. Local emergency numbers for doctor, dentist, hospital etc. should also be displayed by the public telephone.

Roads

- The quality and maintenance of roads, including the entrance road are important. Although it is not necessary for them to be surfaced with concrete or tarmac, they should be firm and free from potholes. If speed 'humps' are installed, they must be clearly indicated. Marked disabled parking is required.

Range and Display of Tourist and Local Information

- Generally the greater the range of tourist and local information on display, the better. This should be well presented, easily accessible and up to date. It is often very useful to have a large scale map of the area on display. Technology can allow the use of Display TV systems.

Launderette

- The assessment includes all types of clothes washing facilities from washing machines and tumble dryers of commercial quality to machines of a domestic type and/or a simple sink. Laundry sinks should be clearly marked for clothes washing only to avoid dual use with dishwashing. The assessor will consider the circulation space for convenient use of the machines and equipment. Cleanliness will be assessed as well as the quality and maintenance of machines and equipment.

ATMOSPHERE AND AMBIENCE

Cleanliness of the Site

- All external areas of the site should be clean, and free from litter and animal fouling.

Landscaping & Layout

- The assessor will look for flair and imagination in planting, as well as the sympathetic location of facilities, accommodation and buildings. Natural features, wood, stone etc. should be used to good advantage. Climatic conditions and location may determine the extent and range of plants and this will be taken into consideration.

Ground Maintenance

- The assessment will reflect well maintained grassed areas free from bare or rough patches, well trimmed and weed-free car parking areas, hard standings, flower beds and planters. Areas left wild for environmental purposes will be taken into account.

Building Style & Exterior Maintenance

- The style and appearance of buildings should be sympathetic with surroundings. The exterior appearance and maintenance of buildings, and walls, roofs, gutters, down pipes, paintwork etc. should all be in good condition. Unsightly storage or maintenance compounds, dilapidated buildings, disused machinery or vehicles will all affect the grading. The exterior of any caravan holiday homes will be assessed here.

Car parking

- The quality and maintenance of car parking will be taken into account e.g. lined, well surfaced bays. If car parking is away from the accommodation, provision should be made for unloading closer to it.

TOURING FACILITIES (if applicable)

Ratio of Toilets and Showers to Pitches

- One of the most frequent complaints from consumers is that of the need to queue for facilities or the inconvenience caused by facilities which are too busy and over used. This aspect will be used to reward the many sites who go beyond providing just the essential number of toilets and showers.

Interior Layout of Facilities

- This includes shower, toilet and washing facilities. Good ventilation and lighting are important. A light and airy building will generally score higher marks than a dark, poorly ventilated facility. Good circulation space, and the adequacy and temperature of the hot water supply are also important. Showers and toilet cubicles should have adequate space.

Quality of Fixtures and Fittings

- This includes shower, toilet and washing facilities. An assessment will be made of the quality and range of fixtures and fittings which should include toilet rolls and holders, hooks, mirrors, shelves/tables, ashtrays, refuse bins etc. The assessor will also look for hair-dryers, razor points, hand-drying facilities, and for the provision of individual sanitary disposal facilities in cubicles.

Quality and Maintenance of Décor, Facilities, Fixtures and Fittings

- This assessment applies to the overall quality and maintenance of the décor, flooring, fixtures and fittings. Recognition will be given to better intrinsic quality as well as for older items which have been maintained to an excellent standard. Items which look worn and/or no longer function to maximum efficiency will not score so well. Floors and walls should have easily cleaned surfaces, e.g. tiles, cement-screened, melamine etc. The quality and condition of toilets, wash basins and tiling are important, and loose or broken seats and taps, poor grouting, badly laid, cracked or chipped tiles etc. will have a negative effect on the assessment. Flaking paint on walls, ceilings and woodwork, graffiti and other types of vandalism will also detract from the final assessment. Windows and doors should be in good condition, and light fittings and piping free from rust.

Cleanliness

- See page 6.

Chemical Disposal Facilities and MVWDP

- The internal and external appearance, cleanliness and maintenance will be assessed. The provision of a ceramic or stainless steel pan/bowl and similar, easily-cleaned surround with a flush system or tap and hose for rinsing, enclosed or under cover, will merit higher marks than a simple drain or man-hole in the open.

Quality of Electric Hook Ups

- Electric hook-ups and other services to touring pitches, and service connections to caravan holiday homes should be as neat and inconspicuous as possible.

ACCOMMODATION

ALL SERVICED AND SELF-CATERING ACCOMMODATION

OVERALL IMPRESSIONS, SPACE AND COMFORT

Relates to the design, layout, space, ventilation, storage etc., the ease of access to cupboards, drawers, use of equipment and moving through passageways.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- All living and bedrooms must have at least one window opening into the open air.
- There must be adequate ventilation, reasonable space for movement and easy access to equipment, cupboards, doors and drawers.
- There should be no sign of dampness.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	<p>Adequate space with satisfactory layout and sufficient free movement</p> <p>Uncluttered rooms.</p> <p>Acceptable environment for guests without disturbing levels of noise, smells, smoke etc.</p> <p>Reasonable sound insulation with minimal intrusive noise.</p>	<p>Sufficient space to allow free movement and a good degree of comfort.</p> <p>Convenient layout of furniture for practical use.</p> <p>Access to both sides of a double bed.</p>	<p>Sufficient space to allow free movement and a good degree of comfort.</p> <p>Convenient layout of furniture for practical use.</p> <p>Access to both sides of a double bed.</p>	<p>Ample space to allow free movement and a high degree of comfort. Area available for luggage storage without cluttering the room and obstructing access.</p> <p>Easy and convenient use of facilities.</p> <p>Generous access to both sides of a double bed.</p> <p>Fresh and airy atmosphere.</p> <p>Comfortable dining for maximum number. Good choice of choice of comfortable easy seating.</p>	<p>Ample space to allow free movement and a high degree of comfort. Area available for luggage storage without cluttering the room and obstructing access.</p> <p>Easy and convenient use of facilities.</p> <p>Generous access to both sides of a double bed.</p> <p>Fresh and airy atmosphere.</p> <p>Comfortable dining for maximum number. Good choice of choice of comfortable easy seating.</p>

LIVING/DINING/KITCHEN AREAS (SELF-CATERING ONLY) DECORATIONS/INTERIOR FINISH

Relates to the quality and condition of wall coverings, tiled areas, paintwork, woodwork etc.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- All paintwork, woodwork, wall coverings etc., must be maintained in sound condition.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	Functional décor including walls and ceilings; limited co-ordination.	Good quality well maintained décor suitable, durable finishes such as tiling in working areas. Splash back important for cooking area. Tiling, grouting and sealant in clean condition.	Minimal marks, splashing or grease or other signs of cooking. Use of pictures etc., where appropriate, particularly on plain walls.	Excellent standard of décor all very well co-ordinated. High quality wall coverings and tiling in excellent condition, professional finish to all aspects of decoration.	Attractive use of pictures, prints and other decorative relief.

- Adequate dining table and seating facilities for the maximum number of occupants.
- Easy chairs and/or sofa seats should be provided sufficient for the maximum of advertised occupants.

Kitchen area: Relates to quality, range and condition of work surfaces, cupboards, kitchen units, sinks, curtains and/or blinds, washing up bowls, drainers, ironing boards, cleaning equipment etc.

- All windows must be equipped with opaque curtains or blinds.
- Must have a sink equipped with a draining board, dish-drying rack, hot running water and cold drinking water supply.

FIXTURES, FURNITURE, SOFT FURNISHINGS AND FITTINGS (PUBLIC AREAS)

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Must have at least one hygienic working surface and storage space suitable for food.
- The Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order 2005 requires each property/business to have a fire risk assessment carried out by the owner/responsible person with subsequent action taken as appropriate to remove and reduce the risk. After such an assessment, it may well be decided to install fire fighting equipment, but this is a decision that is made independently of Visit Wales.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	<p>A sparing but adequate provision of furniture, furnishings and fittings, in terms of quality and quantity.</p> <p>Limited co-ordination. Curtains of sufficient width and length to cover windows.</p> <p>Storage space provided where sleeping in lounge advertised.</p> <p>Sufficient storage and work surfaces for ease of use, all should be in sound, acceptable condition.</p>	<p>Good quality furniture. Greater range of sofas and/ or armchairs with sprung bases. Greater range.</p> <p>Good use of co-ordination. Substantial lined curtains at all windows.</p> <p>Easy access to all storage areas and durable surfaces. Well fitted units.</p>	<p>High quality furniture with a high degree of comfort. Spacious dining facility for the maximum number of people.</p> <p>Plush soft fabrics, plenty of drape, may have interlining and tie backs. Excellent co-ordination of furniture and fabrics.</p>	<p>High quality fitted units with plenty of work surface and storage.</p>	

FLOORING

Minimum Entry Requirements

Relates to the quality, type and condition of carpeting, rugs, vinyl covering, wooden flooring etc. Consider the suitability of the floor covering in the kitchen area.

- All bathrooms must have suitable floor finishes or coverings.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	Well fitted functional and durable flooring. Some consideration given to practicality and hygiene.	Good quality flooring in sound condition and comfortable under foot.			High quality flooring, in excellent condition with obvious attention to hygiene and safety aspects.

CROCKERY, CUTLERY AND EQUIPMENT

Minimum Entry Requirements

Relates to the quality, range and condition of crockery, cutlery and glassware, range and condition of saucepans, cooking pots and cooking/food preparation utensils.

Relates to the quality, range and condition of all gas and/or electrical equipment in the kitchen.

- Cooker with oven and grill and at least three boiling rings (2 if only for 2 guests).
- Fridge with ice making compartment.
- There must be an adequate supply of crockery, cutlery and glasses for maximum number of occupants.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	More than ample supply for the number of guests. Cutlery, although may be lightweight, all matching. Crockery although may be of heavier, practical quality, all the same pattern. Small range of glasses e.g. tumblers.	More than ample supply for the number of guests. Heavier style of cutlery. Crockery of good quality, durable and matching in style. Should not be chipped or stained.			Ironing board unless in laundry. Numbers of each item well in excess of the likely number of occupants. Highest quality stainless steel cutlery. Matching high quality crockery eg. hotel ware, to include side plates, main plates, soup bowls etc. Well matched high glassware in a range of sizes.

CROCKERY, CUTLERY AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	Acceptable range of sizes of pans. Handles all secure and well fitting lids. May have wide range of utensils, but not all of matching design. Limited range of equipment. Some items may be older but all should be in sound acceptable condition.	Pans in a range of sizes, all of good solid weight. No old plastic utensils which are misshapen. Good range of knives, wooden spoons, etc. Equipment all in good order and very well maintained, e.g. items free from signs of rust and major damage. Good size ice box on fridge.			All cookware of the highest quality standard. Wide range of additional items, all co-ordinated. Range of items suitable for microwave where appropriate. Highest standard of equipment throughout. Wider range of excellent quality items including fridge/freezer, dishwasher etc.

CLEANLINESS**Minimum Entry Requirements**

- Properties, furnishings and equipment must be thoroughly cleaned throughout between each let.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	All surfaces and equipment clean and free from dust. All carpets vacuumed and floors cleaned.	Evidence of attention to detail, particularly high and low level. Clean and fresh surfaces. All areas smelling fresh and clean for guests arrival. Particular attention given to cooker, fridge and inside of cupboards, crockery, cutlery and utensils.			Exceptional high level of cleanliness. Gleaming surfaces, no scratches or marks. Evidence of thorough cleaning and a high level attention to detail. Spotless flooring and kitchen equipment, including cooker and fridge's. Particular attention given to vents or extractors.

INVENTORY OF EQUIPMENT FOR SELF-CATERING ACCOMMODATION (CARAVAN HOLIDAY HOMES CHALETS, APARTMENTS)

PER PERSON	2 PER HOLIDAY HOME/CHALET
Cereal/Soup Bowl	Ash trays (where smoking permitted)
Coat hangers x 4	Duster
Egg Cup	Table spoons
Fork (table & dessert)	
Knife (table & side)	
Mug	
Plate (large & small)	
Spoon (dessert & tea)	
Tea Cup & Saucer	
Tumbler	
PER BED	
2/3 blankets or 1 duvet & cover & 1 pillow	
(For winter lettings, or letting very early or late in the season the scale of bedding to be increased and adequate heating provided).	
1 PER CARAVAN HOLIDAY HOME/CHALET/APARTMENT	
Bread Container/bin	Broom
Bread Knife	Bucket
Bread/chopping board	Carpet sweeper or vacuum available
Butter dish	Cleaning agents (washing up liquid etc.)
Carving knife and fork	Covered bin or open bin and sanitary bags in the bathroom
Casserole dish	Covered refuse kitchen bin
Colander	Doormat
Condiment Set (2 piece)	Dustpan & brush
Corkscrew/bottle opener	Measuring jug
Fish slice	Mirror
Floor Cloth	Pan Scourer/dish mop
Frying pan	Smoke alarm(s)
Grater	Teapot
Kettle	Toilet brush and holder
Kitchen Scissors	Toilet roll & holder
Ladle	Tray
Milk jug	Tin Opener
Mixing bowl or basin	Washing up bowl
Oven roasting tray	Water jug
Plastic/wooden spoon	Whisk
Potato masher	
Potato Peeler	
Saucepans and lids (large, med, small)	Fire extinguisher (or fire fighting equipment as determined by risk assessment)
Sharp Vegetable Knife	
Sugar bowl	

BEDROOMS - ALL SERVICED AND SELF-CATERING

DECORATION/INTERIOR FINISH

Minimum Entry Requirements

Relates to the quality and condition of wall coverings, ceilings, paintwork, woodwork etc.

- All the above must be in sound condition.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5	
Quality Indicators	Functional décor and limited co-ordination.	Good quality well maintained décor, free from marking. Well finished, good quality wall coverings. Wall and ceiling coverings well applied. Use of pictures etc., where appropriate, particularly on plain walls.		Excellent décor with high attention to detail. High quality wall coverings with professional finish to all aspects of decoration. Attractive use of pictures, prints and other decorative relief.		

LIGHTING /HEATING

Minimum Entry Requirements

Lighting: Relates to quality, range, type, provision, appearance and positioning of main and secondary lighting, provision and location of power points, lighting switches etc.

- All bedrooms must be adequately lit with electric lighting.

Heating: Relates to the range, type and quality of heating.

- There should be adequate means of heating each bedroom at all times, taking into account seasonal and geographical variations.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5	
Quality Indicators	Lights with appropriate shades of adequate quality for the style, size and shape of the bedroom. Adequate natural light. In caravan holiday homes heating may be borrowed from living areas, but nevertheless must be adequate. May include free standing heaters, but consideration must be given to safety.	Well positioned lights giving good levels of illumination for reading etc. Ample natural light. Well-positioned power points. Good level heating throughout with some degree of thermostatic control.		Variety of quality lights, well positioned and suitable for all purposes. Controls giving variable levels of light as appropriate. Excellent natural light. Good number of power sockets to allow flexibility. Effective levels of heating providing overall uniform temperature, and controllable by the guests.		

FURNITURE, SOFT FURNISHINGS AND FITTINGS

Minimum Entry Requirements

Relates to the quality, appearance, arrangement, size and condition of all fitments including heaters, light fittings, mirrors etc and all furnishings e.g. upholstery, curtains, blinds etc.

- All windows must be equipped with opaque curtains or blinds.
- In at least one adult bedroom a dressing table or equivalent with a mirror and a wardrobe or hanging space must be provided.
- Adequate drawer space in each unit and at least one adult double or twin room must be provided. Adequate shelf space is an acceptable alternative to drawers.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	<p>A sparing but adequate provision of furniture furnishings and fittings in terms of quality and range, limited co-ordination.</p> <p>Adequate drawer or shelf space.</p> <p>All window coverings properly fitted.</p>	<p>Good quality fittings, in a sound and useable condition. Size and amount of furnishings in proportion to the space available.</p> <p>Good use of co-ordination.</p> <p>Good drawer/shelf space.</p> <p>Substantial curtains with sufficient length and width to amply cover the windows.</p> <p>Good quality light fittings with appropriate shades.</p>			<p>Excellent quality, modern furniture of sound construction, as well as very good shelf space. There should be very good storage i.e. for luggage.</p> <p>Excellent co-ordination of furniture and plush soft furnishings of high intrinsic quality.</p> <p>Window coverings denoting a degree of luxury, may have pelmets and tie backs. Quality linings fitted.</p> <p>Light fittings of the highest quality.</p>

FLOOR COVERINGS

Minimum Entry Requirements

Relates to the quality, type and condition of carpeting, rugs, vinyl covering, wooden flooring etc.

- All rooms must have suitable floor finished or coverings. Except where there is fitted carpeting, there must be non-slip rugs beside beds.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	<p>Adequate comfort to flooring, all in clean and functional order and free from wear and tear.</p>	<p>Well fitted, good quality flooring in sound condition and comfortable under foot.</p>			<p>Professionally fitted, high quality flooring in excellent condition.</p>

BEDS AND BEDDING

Minimum Entry Requirements

Relates to the quality and condition of beds, mattresses, headboards, bedding, linen etc.

- All beds and mattresses to be in a sound condition with sufficient bedding, if provided. All mattresses must be of sprung or foam or similar quality.
- Where linen is provided it must be changed on each change of occupier and as appropriate during its of two weeks or more.
Nylon sheets are not acceptable.
- Minimum bed sizes: Adult, single or child size 6' x 2'
 Adult double 6'x'4'
- There will normally be at least one adult bedroom without bunk beds. Where sleeping accommodation is all in bunk beds, this must be stated in all advertising and written details sent to prospective guests.
- Where sleeping accommodation includes the occasional use of bed settees in the lounge area, this must be clearly stated in the brochure and/or written booking information.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5	
Quality Indicators	<p>Acceptable quality bed and mattress. Plastic or rubber mattress protectors tolerated but not encouraged on adult beds.</p> <p>Adequately presented beds with clean linen where provided and bed covers in good repair.</p> <p>Adequate range of bedding, including sufficient blankets/duvet. If additional bedding is provided, it should be clean and fresh, preferably wrapped.</p>	<p>Good quality comfortable bed, firm mattress and sound base. Better quality mattress protectors.</p> <p>Well presented beds, with ample, good quality, freshly laundered, co-ordinated linen and bedding.</p>		<p>Excellent quality bed, eg. sprung base and mattress; clean headboard offering a high degree of comfort. High quality mattress protectors.</p> <p>Co-ordinated and crisply laundered linen changed at least every two days. A choice of bedding available, e.g. thickly quilted or similar quality bedspreads and blankets, or duvets with appropriate tog rating. All of a high quality and co-ordinated with bedroom décor and other soft furnishings.</p> <p>Bed size above the basic minimum.</p>		

BEDS AND BEDDING (continued)

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	All the above requirements would equally apply to supplementary sleeping such as sofa beds.	Extra pillow and bedding available.		Allergy-free pillows available.	High standard of overall presentation.

CLEANLINESS

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	All surfaces clean and free from dust. All areas smelling fresh and clean. All carpets vacuumed and clean. No evidence of mildew or marks to curtains or windows.	Attention to detail evident Including drawers and wardrobes checked. Particular attention to areas at a high and low level e.g. window areas and under beds.		Exceptional high standards of cleanliness.	All areas cleaned daily in serviced accommodation. Gleaming surfaces - evidence of thorough cleaning and a high level of attention to detail.

BATHROOMS AND WC'S - ALL SERVICED AND SELF-CATERING

DECORATION/INTERIOR FINISH

Minimum Entry Requirements

Relates to the quality and condition of wall coverings, ceilings, tiled areas, paintwork, woodwork etc.

- All must be maintained in sound condition.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	Functional décor in good order. Tiling to be in sound condition.	Well maintained, practical décor. Wall and ceiling covering well applied. All in good condition. Sealant and grouting to be clean.		Excellent interior design. Professional finish to all aspects of decoration. High quality décor, with sealant and grouting in excellent condition.	Attractive use of decorative enhancements, where appropriate

LIGHTING /HEATING

Minimum Entry Requirements

Lighting: Relates to the quality, range, type, provision appearance and positioning of main and secondary lighting, the provision and the location of light switches etc.

- Bathrooms/shower rooms and WC's must be adequately lit by electric lighting.
- Razor point or adaptor by mirror in bathroom or bedroom.

Heating: Relates to the range, type and quality of heating.

- There must be an adequate means of heating available at all times, taking into account seasonal and geographical variations.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	Adequate covered lighting for practical use and appropriately positioned. Adequate heating for size of room. Effective ventilation.	Well positioned lighting, giving good levels of illumination e.g. over mirrors and in showers. Towel rail or panel heater in main bathroom.		Excellent illumination levels in all areas. Heating provided in both shared and en-suite bathrooms.	

FIXTURES AND FITTINGS

Minimum Entry Requirements

Relates to quality, appearance, condition, and ease of use etc of all fitments e.g. heaters, light fittings, mirrors etc and all furnishings e.g. curtains, blinds, etc.

- There must be a means of providing hot water at all times.
- Opening window and/or adequate means of ventilation.
- All windows must be equipped with opaque curtains or blinds.
- All accommodation must have at least one bathroom equipped with bath and/or shower, towel rail, WC's, toilet roll and holder and washbasin with mirror adjacent.
- Where not en-suite a lock or bolt must be provided to bathroom and WC doors.
- Surface of shower and / or bath base to be non slip or non slip bathmat to be provided.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	<p>Fittings of an acceptable quality.</p> <p>Adequate water pressure and satisfactory drainage.</p> <p>Correctly fitted, appropriate window covering.</p> <p>Adequate shelf space for guest belongings.</p>	<p>Solid, matching, good quality and well fitted appliances. Co-ordinated sanitary ware.</p> <p>Shaver point close to a mirror, if not in bedroom.</p> <p>Good shelf space for guest belongings.</p> <p>Light fittings of the highest quality with appropriate shades.</p>	<p>Provision of bath and/or shower, with high quality fixtures and fittings, e.g. larger baths, shower cubicles or shower screend. Full size washbasin. Easy to use appliances.</p> <p>Use of ceramic sanitary ware rather than plastic.</p> <p>High quality and well fitted window covering with ample drape and width.</p> <p>Ample and convenient shelf space for guest belongings.</p> <p>Fittings of the highest quality including switches and pull cords.</p>		

FLOORING

Minimum Entry Requirements

Relates to the quality, type and condition of carpeting, rugs, vinyl covering, wooden flooring etc.

- All bathrooms must have suitable floor finishes or coverings.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	Correctly fitted flooring. Flooring in sound condition, practical, non-slip.	Well fitted, good quality flooring in sound condition and comfortable under foot.			Professionally fitted, high quality flooring, in excellent condition.

CLEANLINESS

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	All surfaces clean and free from smears. Carpet / flooring clean and fresh.	Evidence of attention to detail including areas behind toilets etc. Flooring spotlessly clean, shower curtains free from discolouration.			Evidence of highest standards of housekeeping. Equipment and tiled wall surfaces, shining and fresh. High level of attention to detail, especially extractor fans.

PUBLIC AREAS (SERVICED ONLY)

DECORATION/INTERIOR FINISH

Minimum Entry Requirements

Relates to the quality and condition of wall coverings, tiled areas paintwork, woodwork etc.

- All paintwork, woodwork, wall coverings etc., must be maintained in sound condition.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	Functional décor including walls and ceilings; limited co-ordination.	Pleasing interior, with evidence of co-ordinated design. Well finished, good quality wall coverings. Use of pictures etc., where appropriate, particularly on plain walls.		Excellent standard of décor all very well co-ordinated. High quality wall coverings and tiling in excellent condition, professional finish to all aspects of decoration. Attractive use of pictures, prints and other decorative relief.	

LIGHTING /HEATING

Minimum Entry Requirements

Lighting: Relates to the quality, range, type, provision appearance positioning of main and secondary lighting, the provision and the location of power units, light switches etc.

- **There must be electric lighting.**

Heating: Relates to the range, type and suitability of any heating - floor standing, wall or ceiling panels or central heating.

- There must be an adequate means of heating available at all times, taking into account seasonal and geographical variations.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	Adequate levels of covered lighting appropriately positioned.	Well positioned lights, giving good levels of illumination and creating ambience. Easy to use means of controlling lights. Particularly well lit stairs, landings and corridors. Ample natural light.		Well positioned, good quality lights giving good levels of illumination for various purposes e.g. reading, eating. Will include both ceiling and supplementary lighting, which is easily adjustable. May include direct lighting to dining tables if appropriate.	

LIGHTING/HEATING (continued)

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	Adequate levels of heating for all areas.	Effective levels of heating providing overall uniform temperature with thermostatic controls.			Excellent levels of heat provided allowing for flexibility and comfort. Double-glazing to conserve heating.

FIXTURES, FURNITURE, SOFT FURNISHINGS AND FITTINGS**Minimum Entry Requirements**

Living / dining areas: Relates to quality, appearance, condition, arrangement, size etc of all fitments e.g. heaters, TV's etc, and all furnishings e.g. easy seating and upholstery, dining tables and seating, cupboards, shelves, cushions, curtains, blinds. Light and window fittings are also taken into account.

- All windows must be equipped with opaque curtains or blinds.
- Adequate dining facilities for the maximum number of guests.
- Easy chairs and/or sofa seats should be provided sufficient for the maximum of advertised occupants in lounge and/or bar.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	May be limited provision of furniture, furnishings and fittings, in terms of quality and quantity. Limited co-ordination. Curtains of sufficient width and length to cover windows.	Good quality furniture. Greater range of sofas and/or armchairs with sprung bases. Good use of co-ordination. Substantial lined curtains at all windows. Good quality light fittings with appropriate shades.			High quality furniture. High degree of comfort. Spacious dining and bar facilities for the maximum number of people. Excellent co-ordination of furniture and fabrics. Light fittings of the highest quality.

FLOORING**Minimum Entry Requirements**

Relates to the quality, type and condition of carpeting, rugs, vinyl covering, wooden flooring etc. Consider the suitability of the floor covering with accessibility in mind.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	Correctly fitted flooring. Practical non-slip.	Well fitted, good quality flooring in sound condition and comfortable under foot.			Professionally fitted, high quality flooring, in excellent condition.

CLEANLINESS**Minimum Entry Requirements**

- Furnishings and equipment must be thoroughly cleaned throughout between each let.

Quality score	1	2	3	4	5
Quality Indicators	All surfaces and equipment clean and free from dust. All carpets vacuumed and floors cleaned. Evidence of attention to detail, particularly high and low level.	Clean and fresh surfaces or marks. All areas smelling fresh and clean for guests arrival. Exceptional high level of cleanliness.			Glazing surfaces, no scratches. Evidence of thorough cleaning and a high level of attention to detail.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The proprietor/management is required to undertake and observe the following Code of Conduct:

- To maintain standards of guest care, cleanliness, and service appropriate to the type of establishment;
- To describe accurately in any advertisement, brochure or other printed or electronic media, the facilities and services provided;
- To make clear to visitors exactly what is included in all prices quoted for accommodation, including taxes, and any other surcharges. Details of charges for additional services/facilities should also be made clear;
- To give a clear statement of the policy on cancellations to guests at the time of booking i.e. by telephone, fax, e-mail as well as information given in a printed format;
- To adhere to, and not to exceed prices quoted at the time of booking for accommodation and other services;
- To advise visitors at the time of booking, and subsequently of any change, if the accommodation offered is in an unconnected annex or similar and to indicate the location of such accommodation and any difference in comfort and/or amenities from accommodation in the establishment;
- To give each visitor on request details of payments due and a receipt, if required;
- To deal promptly and courteously with all enquiries, requests, bookings and correspondence from visitors;
- Ensure complaint handling procedures are in place and that complaints received are investigated promptly and courteously and that the outcome is communicated to the visitor;
- To give due consideration to the requirements of visitors with disabilities and visitors with special needs, and to make suitable provision where applicable;
- To provide public liability insurance or comparable arrangement and to comply with all applicable planning, safety and other statutory requirements;
- To allow a Visit Wales representative reasonable access to the establishment, on request to confirm the Code of Conduct is being observed.

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

All establishments participating in the Visit Wales grading schemes are required to:

- Meet or exceed the Visit Wales minimum entry level requirements for a rating in the relevant accommodation sector;
- Observe the Visit Wales Code of Conduct;
- Be assessed annually, and in the event of complaints by an authorised representative of Visit Wales;
- Pay an annual inspection fee;
- Provide a Disability Access Statement.

Change of Ownership

When an establishment is sold, the existing rating cannot be transferred to the new owner. The new owner is required to make an application for participation in the Visit Wales Star grading scheme.

Signage

Where an establishment, for whatever reason, ceases to participate in the Visit Wales grading scheme, all relevant display signs and print material must be removed immediately.

Use of all Star ratings should always be accompanied by the appropriate Visit Wales logo.

Any listing in a Visit Wales publication/website and within the Tourist Information Centre network are conditional on continued participation in the Visit Wales grading inspection scheme.

Failure to observe these conditions may result in the establishment becoming ineligible to display or use the Visit Wales endorsement in any form whatsoever.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU DISAGREE WITH THE STAR RATING GIVEN

If you feel you have reason to disagree with the Star rating given to your property, or disagree with certain aspects of the Quality Assessor's report, then please get in touch with us within 21 days after you receive your written report. You can telephone our Aberystwyth team on 0300 062 2000 or email us at quality.tourism@wales.gsi.gov.uk and we will try to resolve your concerns.

Alternatively, you may want to write in to us at

Quality Assurance Department

Visit Wales

Welsh Assembly Government

Rhodfa Padarn

Llanbadarn Fawr

Aberystwyth

Ceredigion SY23 3UR

www.wales.gov.uk/tourism

CONTACT DETAILS

If you would like to apply for a Star grading visit or discuss any issue of concern arising out of the contents of this guide, contact us at:

Quality Assurance Department
Visit Wales
Welsh Assembly Government
Rhodfa Padarn
Llanbadarn Fawr
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion SY23 3UR
Tel: 0300 062 2000
E-mail: quality.tourism@wales.gsi.gov.uk

You can also find a grading application form, fee details and an electronic version of this guide by visiting our website www.wales.gov.uk/tourism and clicking on 'Grading'.



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Welsh Assembly Government