Operational requirements

To run a successful hospitality and catering business, it is important that the front of house is welcoming to all customers. A logical layout and workflow will mean that the customers will be able to enjoy organised, efficient service.

In a catering establishment such as a café, the front of house is where the customers are served.

In a residential establishment such as a hotel, the front of house is where guests are received before checking in to their room.

Catering and residential establishments have common front of house areas, which help to ensure a smooth operation of the business.

Front of house dress code

The front of house dress creates a first impression. In some establishments a **uniform** may be worn. In other establishments, employees may be required to wear colours such as black and white. In addition:

- clothing must be clean and ironed
- if worn, jewellery, perfume and make-up must be minimal
- personal hygiene must be maintained
- name badges may be required.

Restaurant workflow

The workflow should be organised so that orders can be filled, and food can be passed from the kitchen as quickly as possible.

Reception: Guests are greeted and shown to their seats in the dining area.

Seating/dining area: In a large restaurant, this area is divided into **stations**. Each station is managed by a waitperson.

Counter service: Food is on display for customers to choose and pay at the end. Some restaurants also offer seated counter service.

Bar: An area for socialising or eating in a less formal space.

Equipment station: Small items such as cutlery and serviettes and food items such as condiments should be available to wait staff.

Toilets: Customer toilets should be clean and welcoming.

Safety Equipment: First aid boxes and fire extinguishers must be easily accessed.

Hotel workflow

The workflow of a hotel should be organised so that guests can be checked in as quickly as possible.

Reception: Guests are checked in and receive keys/key cards for their room.

Lobby/waiting area: This area should have comfortable seating for the guests. Drinks may be available in the lobby.

Stairs/Lifts: These provide access to rooms and other facilities.

Toilets: Customer toilets should be clean and welcoming.

Administration and documents

Businesses may employ an administrator who keeps track of:

- staff employment and training records
- stock orders, delivery records and invoices
- health and safety documents
- financial information
- customer feedback
- advertising.