

EN 18164:2026

THE NEW EUROPEAN STANDARD FOR

PUBLIC WET & THERMAL SPA AREAS

Requirements for the design, construction, ventilation, heating, humidity control, hygiene and safety of public-use climated wellness facilities including saunas, warm-air rooms, steam rooms and soft steam rooms.

- SAFE
User Protection
- HYGIENIC
Cleanliness & Health First
- DURABLE
Built to Last
- COMPLIANT
Designed to EN 18164:2026

EN 18164:2026 DEFINES FOUR CLIMATED ROOM CLASSIFICATIONS

	TEMPERATURE (dry-bulb)	HUMIDITY (Relative humidity)
 SAUNA ROOM Ascending stepped benches; minimum 65% timber surface to walls and ceiling.	80 – 105 °C	< 10 %
 WARM-AIR ROOM Limited according to temperature / humidity curve	30 – 80 °C	
 STEAM ROOM Saturated (~ 100 %)	40 – 49 °C	
 SOFT STEAM ROOM Exact conditions shall comply with the temperature / humidity curves specified in EN 18164:2026.	30 – 70 °C	< 100 %

EN 18164:2026 sets requirements for the design, construction, ventilation, heating, humidity control, hygiene and safety of public-use climated wellness facilities including sauna rooms, warm-air rooms, steam rooms and soft steam rooms.

SCOPE OF THE STANDARD

EN 18164:2026 applies to climated rooms for public use. It does not cover pools, spa tubs, cold rooms, massage rooms, fitness areas or outdoor facilities.

SELECTED KEY REQUIREMENTS FOR CLIMATED ROOMS (EN 18164:2026)

1



VENTILATE PROPERLY

Technical supply and exhaust ventilation shall be provided.

≥ 5 AIR CHANGES / HOUR or CO₂-controlled ventilation maintaining < 2,000 ppm

2



DESIGN FOR HYGIENE

Surfaces shall be cleanable, hygienic and suitable for the environment.

Steam rooms require waterproof, closed-pore surfaces with minimal joints.

3



DRAIN SAFELY

Floors shall be slip-resistant, cleanable and designed to prevent standing water.

 ≥ 18°
Slip resistance to EN 16165 (min. limit angle)
Steam rooms must slope towards a trapped drain.

4



PROTECT THE USER

- Doors open outward
- Not lockable
- Easy to open from inside
- Close tightly

 Door & window glass must be at least toughened safety glass. Doors shall be robust and safe in use.

5



CONTROL HEAT & HUMIDITY

Heating, steam and humidity systems require proper controls and user protection.

 Timber warm-air rooms require an automatic drying cycle after operation* (per EN 18164:2026, §8.1.2). Ensure adequate ventilation during and after drying.

6



SUITABLE LIGHTING

Lighting shall be suitable for high temperatures and humidity and independent of safety equipment such as heaters or steam generators.

Use warm, dimmable lighting. Separate control for hot cabin and adjacent areas.

7



SAFETY SYSTEMS

Heaters, except in steam rooms, shall have safety devices in line with EN 60335-2-53.

- Overheat protection
- Flame failure protection (where applicable)
- Safe installation clearances
- Compliant wiring and components

8



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Climated rooms shall include an emergency call system that is self-resetting and gives a visual and/or acoustic signal.

- Alarm clearly visible and audible
- Self-resetting
- Connected to responsible person or staffed area

9



ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible pathways and circulation shall be considered in accordance with applicable requirements.

Ensure adequate dimensions, clear routes, suitable surfaces and door operation where applicable.

COMPLIANCE TODAY. SAFETY EVERY DAY.

EN 18164:2026 is your framework for safe, hygienic, durable and high-performing wellness facilities.

