



## **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COFFIN AND CONTENTS**

### **Identification**

The deceased's full name, age and date of death must be written on or attached to the coffin in a location which can be easily seen by the crematorium attendant checking the identification before receiving the coffin into the Crematorium.

### **Measurements**

The external measurements of a coffin (including the handles or any other adornments) shall not exceed:-  
Chilterns Crematorium - 30 inches in width, 86 inches in length and 26 inches in height.

Bierton Crematorium - 41 inches in width, 86 inches in length and 26 inches in height.

If a coffin is wider than 30 inches the funeral service can still be held in the Milton Chapel at Chilterns Crematorium as long as the applicant agrees that the funeral director can transfer the coffin to Bierton afterwards for cremation. There will be no additional crematorium fee for this transfer

### **Coffin construction ensuring dignified and safe charging into a cremator**

The coffin shall be made of an easily combustible material of suitable design and sufficiently robust construction to be charged safely into a cremator.

The coffin (or body-board for an enshrouded body) shall have a flat, solid base with no snags to allow the free, unobstructed passage over rollers. If it is desired to strengthen the bottom of the coffin, wooden strips may be placed lengthways for this purpose. When wooden strips are used there shall be a gap down the centre of the coffin between the strips of not less than 20 cms and not more than 45 cms wide. The coffin base, and any wooden strips used, shall be sufficiently robust to withstand the abrasive action against the cremator hearth during the charging process without breaking or becoming detached from the coffin.

The foot end of the coffin shall be strong enough to withstand the pushing action of the coffin charging machine. In some cases e.g. cardboard or wicker, this will require extra strengthening of this part of the coffin, or a board for an enshrouded body will require the foot end to be built up.

No metal of any kind shall be used in the manufacture of a coffin for cremation except staples and screws necessary for its safe construction and then only metal of a high ferrous content. Items such as the nameplate, handles, or a crucifix shall also be made of an easily combustible material.

### **Coffin construction preventing toxic emissions**

The coffin shall be made of an easily combustible material which does not give off toxic gas or leave a problematic residue. Chlorinated materials are a particular problem and in this respect the use of nitro-cellulose varnish, polyurethane, melamine and any products containing polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in the coffins construction, finishing or furnishing shall not be used, with the exception of polystyrene for the coffin nameplate.

The coffin shall be lined to prevent leakage and this shall be manufactured from polythene not exceeding 75 microns in thickness or other suitable waterproof material which is easily combustible and does not give off toxic gas. Metal, rubber or polyvinyl chloride (PVC) is not permitted and on no account shall pitch or a similar substance be used.

### **Contents of coffin**

The wishes of some families for the deceased to be dressed in his/her own clothes and/or to be able to place small items of easily combustible memorabilia in the coffin such as cards, letters, photographs, cuddly toys, etc, is understandable and acceptable providing items such as footwear (non-leather or leather with rubber/plastic soles, rubber boots, etc), waterproof clothing or any item made of plastic or rubber, including a PVC body-bag unsuitable for cremation, are excluded. Prostheses or casts of plaster or other material shall also be removed whenever possible.

