



## Wellingborough Bereavement Services Ltd

### Coffin Compliance Form

**To comply with the policy of the Nene Valley Crematorium in relation to coffin accreditation, all users of the crematorium must sign this form.**

Wellingborough Bereavement Services Ltd has adopted a policy in relation to the accreditation of coffins following research and joint guidance from the Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management, the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities, The Association of Private Crematoria & Cemeteries and the Cremation Society of Great Britain. The purpose of the policy is to ensure the dignity of the deceased, respect for bereaved people, safety for all individuals, and provides an environment which, as far as is reasonably possible is safe and without risk to health.

The manager of the crematorium is responsible for implementing this policy and ensuring effective monitoring and review of risk control systems related to coffin safety conformity. The manager will ensure that persons with responsibilities for managing and ensuring coffin are competent and trained appropriately.

Any instances of objects placed in coffins leading to emission failures or damage to equipment will be formally transferred to the enforcing authority and could lead to formal prosecution against those who have contributed to any case of non-compliance or breach of the Environment Permitting (England and Wales) Amended Regulations 2014. The company may seek compensation for any damage caused to its equipment as a result of non-compliance. By signing this form funeral directors will acknowledge their part in the accreditation process by agreeing to comply with the policy and accepting liability for damage to the cremator or harm to employees of the company if caused by non-compliance with the policy in respect of the coffin, its structure or its contents.

#### **A. CONSTRUCTION OF THE COFFIN**

- 1. Zinc or lead lined coffins cannot be cremated.**
2. The coffin must be made of wood or a wood by-product as with eco-coffins, which when placed in a cremator and subjected to the accepted cremation processes, is easily combustible and which does not emit smoke, give off toxic gas or leave any retardant smears or drops after final combustion.
3. No metal furniture or fittings whatever shall be used on a coffin for cremation.
4. No metal of any kind shall be used in the manufacture of such coffin except as necessary for its safe construction and then only metal of high ferrous content.
5. Cross pieces must not be attached to the bottom of the coffin. If it is desired to strengthen the bottom of the coffin, wooden strips may be placed lengthways for this purpose.
6. The coffin must not be painted or varnished but may be covered with a suitable cloth.
7. Products manufactured in polyvinyl chloride (PVC), must not be used in the construction of the coffin and its furnishings.
8. The use of polystyrene must be restricted to the coffin nameplate only in which case it must not exceed 90 grams in weight.

#### **B. THE LINING OF THE COFFIN**

The use of sawdust or cotton wool must be avoided. If circumstances require, suitable sealing material may be used, but no metal, rubber or polyvinyl chloride (PVC) will be permitted and on no account must pitch or similar substance be used.

#### **C. SIZE OF COFFIN**

Maximum coffin dimensions are as follows L 88 ins (224cm), W 40 ins (102cm), H 27.5 ins (70cm).

**D. CLOTHING AND COFFIN CONTENT**

- 1. The coffin must only contain the body of the deceased and all the shrouds and/or clothing must be of natural fibres e.g. cotton, wool, silk etc.
- 2. Shoes or any material manufactured from PVC should not be included.

**Note: Glass, battery powered, and other implants could cause serious problems during the cremation process. Therefore, if in any doubt about what is deemed as being acceptable coffin contents, please take advice from staff at the Crematorium Office.**

**E. COFFIN ACCREDITATION**

There are currently two coffin accreditation schemes in existence, managed independently by The Funeral Furnishing Manufacturers Association (FFMA) and The Coffin, Casket and Shroud Association (CCCSA). Each scheme will maintain a website containing a list of accredited coffins and that accredited coffins will be stamped. This helps ensure that coffins brought for cremations are fit for purpose and cause no problems to cremation authorities, funeral directors or bereaved people.

**Note: Coffins must comply with the Funeral Furnishing Manufacturers Association of Funeral Directors or The Coffin, Casket and Shroud Associations joint specification/standard for cremation.**

Please indicate by the tick boxes which of the accreditation schemes you adhere to:

FFMA

CCSA

Please document below the coffin names, manufacturers and accreditation numbers that you use/hold respectively:

**Coffin Name** .....

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**Manufacturer** .....

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**Accreditation Number** .....

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**Note:** This form will be reviewed annually and/or updated at the point of changes to the information provided.

**I confirm that I have read and understood the above information and certify that the content of all our coffins conform to the information and are stamped to validate accreditation.**

**FUNERAL DIRECTOR NAME:** .....

**SIGNATURE:** .....

**ADDRESS:** .....

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**DATE:** .....