

THE FEDERATION OF BURIAL AND CREMATION AUTHORITIES

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PROCEDURE FOR THE PACKING AND DESPATCH OF CREMATED REMAINS/ASHES

Cremation Authorities should be concerned that cremated remains/ashes which they despatch arrive at their destination safely and in a condition which will not cause distress or embarrassment to the recipient. The following recommendations have been formulated as a guide to Cremation Authorities.

CREMATED REMAINS/ASHES

The whole of the cremated remains/ashes must be removed from the cremator and, after cooling, and treatment, placed in a polythene bag which should be sealed and placed in a suitable outer container which is engraved or labelled with the name of the deceased, cremation number and the name of the Crematorium.

CONTAINER

The container should be strong enough to resist breakage in transit and yet be simple in design and of sufficient volume to contain all remains extracted from the cremator. The recommended capacity for a container is a minimum of 200 cubic inches (3280 cubic cms). The lid must fit tightly, and the fastening should be strong enough to prevent the lid being forced open by distortion of the container through maltreatment in transit.

PACKING

The container itself should be sealed by the Cremation Authority in such a way that the seal cannot be broken, unfastened, resealed or otherwise interfered with after it has left the Crematorium, without the disturbance of the seal being apparent to the recipient. It should be suitably wrapped, protected and placed within a double-strength cardboard box of the correct size. The whole should then be wrapped in a sheet of strong brown wrapping paper, secured with and/or sealed with adhesive tape. The parcel should be clearly addressed in block letters to the recipient with the name and address of the sender also indicated in block letters on the label.

DESPATCH

Cremated remains/ashes not personally collected should be sent by a secure courier service. A letter should be sent to the recipient on the same day as the despatch of the cremated remains/ashes notifying of their impending arrival. When cremated remains/ashes are to be interred or strewn in a Churchyard, Burial Ground, Cemetery or Garden of Remembrance, an appropriate certificate should be issued by the Cremation Authority and forwarded with the letter.

RECEIPT

A receipt should always be obtained by the Cremation Authority whenever cremated remains/ashes are removed from the Crematorium. When cremated remains/ashes are forwarded by the courier, the certificate of collection or other acknowledgement should be affixed to the appropriate cremation documents.

The receipt of cremated remains/ashes should always be acknowledged and it is advisable for Cremation Authorities to issue a form for this purpose for completion and return by the recipient.