

Legislation for coffin requirements

20 - Coffins

(1) a funeral director or other person arranging for the disposal of bodily remains must ensure that the coffin to be used

(a) subject to subregulation (2), is lined internally with impervious material that is at least 100 µm thick and of such a nature as to prevent the escape of bodily fluids, contaminants or infectious substances from the coffin; and

(b) is constructed so that it will not distort or collapse on being subjected to the kind of handling to which a coffin is likely to be subjected during the normal course of events leading up to interment or cremation (including handling when damp); and

(c) In the case of a coffin to be used for a cremation-

(i) is constructed of timber or material derived from timber that will not release organochlorines during incineration in a crematorium; and

(ii) does not have cross pieces projecting from its base; and

(iii) Subject to subregulation (3), contains only material suitable for combustion in the course of a cremation; and

(iv) bears a name plate or inscription stating the surname, at least one given name and the date of the death of the deceased whose remains are to be cremated in the coffin.

Maximum penalty: \$5,000

(2) a coffin need not be lined with impervious material in accordance with subregulation (1) (a)-

(a) if the coffin is to be used for the burial of bodily remain in accordance with the usages of a culture or religion that does not permit the use of such impervious material; or

(b) if the bodily remains, when placed in the coffin, are completely enclosed in a bag made of impervious material at least 100 µm thick and the bag is effectively sealed so as to prevent leakage of bodily fluids from the bodily remains into the coffin.

(3) materials that are not suitable for combustion in the course of a cremation may be used on the exterior of a coffin if they can be removed easily prior to cremation.

Source:

Burial and Cremation Act 2013

<https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/BURIAL%20AND%20CREMATION%20ACT%202013.aspx>

Burial and Cremation Regulations 2014

<https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/R/BURIAL%20AND%20CREMATION%20REGULATIONS%202014/CURRENT/2014.5.AUTH.PDF>