Requirements relating to cremation

1. A body shall not be removed from the crematorium after the service of committal, except by order of a Coroner or for some other valid reason.

2. The container and the body shall be placed in a cremator and cremation commenced no later than 72 hours after the service of committal. Where cremation may not be carried out on the same day, the Applicant for Cremation shall be notified.

3. The coffin or container with the body inside shall not be opened or otherwise disturbed after the committal other than in exceptional circumstances and then only in the presence of and with the permission of the Applicant for Cremation, or for a lawful purpose as directed by a higher authority.

4. Once a coffin or container has been placed in a cremator, it shall not be disturbed until the process of cremation is complete.

5. On completion, the whole of the cremated remains shall be removed from the cremator and reduced to granular form, except where this is specifically not requested, and shall be disposed of or released according to the instructions of the Applicant for Cremation.

6. Cremated remains placed in the Garden of Remembrance shall be treated with reverence and respect. If strewn, they should be obscured by soil or brushing. Where a local practice of strewnig in the form of a cross or other pattern has developed, it is acceptable providing it does not result in the unsightly build-up or prolonged visibility of the cremated remains. Cremated remains must be labelled and released in suitable, unused containers, and where sent by registered post or secure carrier, capable of withstanding transit without damage.

7. The term ‘ashes’ and ‘cremated remains’ are on and the same and are defined as ‘all that is left in the cremator at the end of the cremation process and following the removal of any metal’.

8. Consent must be obtained from the applicant for cremation to remove and metals from cremated remains irrespective of whether the metal is recycled or buried within the ground of the crematorium.

COMMERCIALISATION OF PRODUCTS OR RESIDUES OF CREMATION

The products or residues of a cremation shall not be used for any commercial purpose.

INSPECTION

Everyone has the right to inspect the crematorium or cemetery during normal working hours, upon application to the manager of the facility.
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Every Charter member shall minimise the impact of bereavement upon the environment. This should encourage the greater use of earth friendly materials and environmentally friendly practices, particularly in:

General
- Ensuring the use of suitable coffins and containers used for burial or cremation. The use of plastics should be minimised with natural materials encouraged wherever possible. Zinc or lead lined coffins cannot be cremated.
- Employing the use of the most environmentally friendly materials in the maintenance of grounds.
- Recycling of green waste from grounds maintenance works
- Recycling, where law permits, of any other material for which permission of the applicant for cremation or burial has been obtained.

Burial
- Ensuring the most effective use of land for burial.
- Where possible providing or partnering a provider of woodland burial.
- The use of suitable ground for burial so that water borne pollution shall not occur.

Cremation
- Emissions to air are of great concern to the public. All Charter members should actively seek to reduce emissions to the air by the provision of suitable abatement equipment at the earliest possible time.
- Promoting the most effective use of energy within the crematorium. This could include consideration of heat exchange units to capture energy that is currently wasted.
- Ensuring the optimum usage of crematorium plant and equipment including longer operational hours.
- Advising that clothing the deceased in clothes made of natural fibre/materials is acceptable whereas plastic, nylon and other synthetic materials are not acceptable due to the impact on the environment via emissions.
- Promoting the recycling of metals resulting from cremation.

INDIVIDUAL DISPOSAL

The importance of human beings as individuals and the manner in which they inter-relate with relatives and friends does not diminish in significance following death. It is important for the bereaved to know that the burial or cremation is individually carried out, unless a bereaved parent chooses a shared burial or cremation and the following requirements must, therefore, be met:-

General conditions
1. No coffin/container/shroud shall be accepted at a cemetery unless the name of the deceased therein is clearly shown.
2. The identity shown on the coffin/container/shroud shall be verified at every funeral.
3. If burial is to occur, the body and its coffin/container/shroud shall be placed in the identified grave.
4. If cremation is to occur, the body shall be cremated individually and the correct identity shall be maintained throughout the process. (not applicable where parents have chosen shared cremation for their babies)
5. If requested by the Applicant for Cremation or Burial the lid of the coffin or container may be removed for the duration of the chapel service and subsequently replaced prior to the committal (This action cannot be permitted in cases where cause of death is a notifiable disease).

Requirements relating to burial
1. After the coffin/container/shroud and body have been committed into the grave, they shall not be removed or otherwise disturbed except for lawful exhumation, by licence or faculty or by the order of a Coroner.
2. Immediately after the mourners have departed the graveside, the grave shall be entirely backfilled and made tidy. This work will be completed on the day of the burial and must not extend overnight.