

Health Services

Cap. 44.

**HEALTH SERVICES (TRANSPORTATION OF HUMAN
REMAINS) REGULATIONS, 1969**

S.I. 1969/178.
1978/111.
Cap. 44.

Made by the Minister under section 10 of the Health Services Act.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Health Services (Transportation of Human Remains) Regulations, 1969. Short title.

2. (1) For the purposes of these regulations— Interpreta-
tion.

“ transportation of human remains ” means the shipment of the body from the country where the death occurred to the country of its final destination after either death or disinterment;

“ impervious coffin ” means any container or box, of whatever material, which can be hermetically sealed and so maintained by plastic or rubber gasket or by metal or similar material which has been soldered or welded.

(2) For the purposes of these regulations, where a body is encased in a plastic container which has been sealed by heat or by adhesive material before being placed in a non-impervious coffin, that coffin shall be considered an impervious coffin.

3. (1) Any person desiring to transport the remains of a deceased person shall furnish the Chief Medical Officer or any medical officer appointed by him for the purpose with the following documents— Documents
required for
transporta-
tion of
remains.

- (a) an official certificate of cause of death issued by the local registrar of deaths or similar authority;
- (b) a statement by the person authorised to prepare the remains, certified by an appropriate authority, indicating the manner and method in which the body was prepared

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and indicating that the coffin contains only the body in question and necessary clothing and packing;

- (c) a transit permit stating the surname, other name or names, and age of the deceased person issued by the competent authority for the place of death, or the place of burial in the case of exhumed human remains;

(2) Copies of the documents required under sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph (1) shall accompany the shipment of the remains.

(3) The outside of the coffin shall bear an immovable plaque or other appropriate marking, in a conspicuous place, indicating the name, age and place of the final destination of the body.

Conditions relating to transportation of remains.

4. (1) It shall not be lawful for anyone to transport the remains of a deceased person unless such remains—

- (a) are thoroughly washed with an effective disinfectant and all the orifices thereof are disinfected and packed with cotton saturated with an effective disinfectant; and
- (b) are wrapped in a sheet saturated with an effective disinfectant and placed in an impervious coffin; or
- (c) are properly embalmed (arterial and cavity) and placed in an impervious coffin; or
- (d) are properly embalmed (arterial and cavity) and encased in a plastic container which has been sealed by heat or by adhesive material before being placed in a non-impervious coffin.

(2) In cases where the deceased at the time of his death was suffering from a quarantinable disease which would have rendered him liable to isolation in accordance with the provisions of the Quarantine Act, the human remains shall be properly embalmed (arterial and cavity) and placed in an impervious coffin.

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Shipment requirements.

5. Human remains prepared for shipment shall be placed in a hermetically sealed impervious coffin and may be shipped without any covering (except in the case of shipment by sea), but for protective purposes such remains may be fitted in a box made of wood or other material, so as to prevent movement or may be wrapped in a specially designed fabric.

6. Where human remains are transported—

Transportation by sea, road and air.

- (a) by sea, then in order to prevent movement, the impervious coffin shall be packed in an ordinary wooden case, or in a case made of any other material, or shall be placed in a specially designed container made of fabric;
- (b) by road, the impervious coffin shall be conveyed on a closed hearse, closed van or other motor vehicle, and shall be so placed as to prevent movement;
- (c) by air, the impervious coffin may be conveyed in the baggage compartment of a passenger aircraft or in a cargo aircraft and may be equipped with a vent or safety valve if precautions are taken to prevent the escape of liquids or noxious gases.

7. Whatever may be the method of transportation of human remains, wreaths, flowers and other similar funeral articles may be sent with the coffin only if it is permitted by the law in force in the country to which such remains are being sent.

Restrictions on wreaths etc.

8. Nothing in these regulations shall be deemed to apply to the transportation of the ashes of a cremated corpse.

Regulations not applicable to ashes.

9. A person who contravenes these regulations is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or both.

Penalties. S.I. 1978/111.

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