
Overview

This standard is about the exhumation of coffins and remains.

The requirement to work within clear legal provisions and high standards of hygiene is extremely important.

This standard is appropriate for those working in the exhumation of coffins and remains.

If you are working with machinery you need to be appropriately trained or certificated in line with current legislation

You must carry out your work in a way which will minimise any impact on the natural environment.

**Performance
criteria**

You must be able to:

- P1 ensure you have the required authorisation available to exhume
- P2 carry out all work in accordance with instructions and specifications
- P3 locate the identified grave
- P4 assess the risks associated with the site and the required activity
- P5 erect screening around the identified grave
- P6 select, prepare, use and maintain tools, equipment and machinery in a safe and effective condition throughout
- P7 probe carefully to locate the coffin in the grave site
- P8 dig to within the specified distance from the coffin
- P9 disinfect the soil and contaminated areas throughout the process
- P10 clear soil around the coffin leaving sufficient room for safe and effective access
- P11 place lifting aids correctly and lift in a manner which minimises the damage to the coffin and contents
- P12 handle the coffin following initial lift in a manner which is appropriate to the soil and coffin conditions
- P13 place coffin and contents in a suitable container
- P14 restore the grave site tidily and safely
- P15 show care and respect for the deceased throughout the operation
- P16 deal with equipment and materials used safely and hygienically on completion of the operation
- P17 carry out work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the required licences and authorisation you must have before carrying out exhumations
- K2 the relevant legislation and codes of practice covering this area of work
- K3 why thorough preparation for exhumations is important
- K4 why it is important to locate the correct grave and how to do so
- K5 how to identify hazards and assess risks
- K6 how to select, prepare, use and maintain tools, equipment and machinery in a safe and effective condition
- K7 why it is important to screen and cover the site from public view and how to do so
- K8 how to locate the coffin and remains
- K9 why it is important to probe in a way which minimises damage to the coffin and remains and how to do so
- K10 why preliminary digging should only go to a specified distance from the coffin and what this distance may be
- K11 why disinfecting contaminated areas throughout the process and at the end of the operation is important
- K12 materials used for disinfecting
- K13 how much room is required around the coffin for safe and effective access
- K14 how to place lifting aids and lift the coffin in a way which minimises damage
- K15 how to handle the coffin following initial lift according to the soil and coffin conditions
- K16 why the coffin and contents should be placed in a suitable container and what this container may be
- K17 how to restore the grave site tidily and safely
- K18 how to deal with equipment and materials safely and hygienically following exhumation
- K19 your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies

Glossary

Types of equipment:

- probing
- measuring
- digging
- safety
- protective clothing
- shell, coffin or suitable container
- shoring

Types of material:

- disinfectant
- lime
- vegetable charcoal

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