

Environmental Public Health (Cemeteries) Regulations

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ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACT
(CHAPTER 95, SECTION 113)

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH (CEMETERIES) REGULATIONS

Rg 9

G.N. No. S 119/1978

REVISED EDITION 2000

(31st January 2000)

[1st June 1978]

Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Environmental Public Health (Cemeteries) Regulations.

Definitions

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —

“ashes” means the cremated remains of a corpse;

“caretaker” means a person appointed by the owner of a private cemetery to take charge of the cemetery;

“cemetery” means a place of burial maintained by the Agency or otherwise and includes every part of those premises in which such place is located;

[S 715/2006 wef 01/01/2007]

“corpse” means a dead human body or its remains whether decomposed or otherwise, but does not include ashes;

“grave plot” means the area occupied by a grave and includes any tombstone or monument erected on or over it;

“owner of a private cemetery” means the person who is registered as the owner of the cemetery under the Registration of Deeds Act (Cap. 269) and includes any other person who manages or maintains the cemetery.

[S 715/2006 wef 01/01/2007]

[Deleted by S 715/2006 wef 01/01/07]

Permit for and period of burial

3.—(1) No corpse shall be buried unless a permit for the burial of such corpse has

been issued by the Director-General and the death has been registered under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act (Cap. 267).

[S 715/2006 wef 01/01/2007]

(2) Except as otherwise determined by the Director-General, a permit issued under paragraph (1) on or after 1st November 1998 shall permit a corpse to be buried in any cemetery for a period of 15 years.

[S 715/2006 wef 01/01/2007]

Application to bury corpse

4.—(1) An application for a permit to bury a corpse and the permit to bury a corpse shall be in such form as the Director-General may require.

[S 715/2006 wef 01/01/2007]

(2) The application shall be made by —

- (a) an executor of the estate of the deceased person or the nearest surviving relative of the deceased person;
- (b) a person who is duly authorised to do so by any person referred to in sub-paragraph (a); or
- (c) any other person who has given sufficient reason to the Director-General as to why the application is not being made by any of the persons referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b).

[S 715/2006 wef 01/01/2007]

Where permit to bury not required

5. A permit to bury a corpse shall not be required under regulation 3(1) if —

- (a) a Coroner has issued an order for or authorised such burial under section 274 or 275 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cap. 68); or
- (b) the corpse is that of a person who died outside Singapore and a certificate certifying the cause of death of the person has been issued by a competent authority of the country in which the death occurred.

Register of burials

6.—(1) A register of burials shall be kept in safe custody in every cemetery.

(2) The register of burials shall be in such form as the Director-General may require and shall be kept up to date.

[S 715/2006 wef 01/01/2007]

(3) The following particulars shall be recorded in the register of burials:

- (a) the serial number of each burial in the cemetery in which the register of

burials is kept under this regulation;

- (b) the date of the burial;
- (c) the name, identity card, passport or birth certificate number, address, occupation, age, sex and marital status of the deceased person;
- (d) the date of his death;
- (e) where an application for the burial is made under regulation 4, the name, identity card or passport number and address of the person who applied for such burial; and
- (f) except where a Coroner has issued an order for or authorised the burial under section 274 or 275 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the registration number of the death certificate of the deceased person and, where the death certificate is issued in a foreign country, the name of that country.

(4) The particulars in respect of a burial shall be recorded under paragraph (3) immediately after the burial.

(5) A permit issued under regulation 3(1), an application made under regulation 4 and the particulars specified in paragraph (3) shall be preserved for a period of 5 years from the date of the burial to which they relate.

Depth of grave

7. No grave shall be less than 1.8 metres below the general surface of the ground except with the written permission of the Director-General.

[S 715/2006 wef 01/01/2007]

Location of grave plots or land

8. No grave plot or land shall be used or allowed to be used for burial if it is within 60 metres from the edge of a road or 1.5 metres of any drain or watercourse or within 6 metres of a dwelling-house unless the written permission of the Director-General for such use is obtained.

[S 715/2006 wef 01/01/2007]

Duties of owner of private cemetery

9. The owner of a private cemetery shall ensure that —

- (a) the cemetery is used for no other purpose than the burial of corpses;
- (b) no grave contains more than one corpse;
- (c) adequate measures are taken to prevent any offence under the Vandalism

Act (Cap. 341) from being committed within the cemetery;

- (d) no burial is carried out within the cemetery between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. without the written permission of the Director-General;
[S 715/2006 wef 01/01/2007]
- (e) a caretaker of the cemetery is present at the cemetery whenever a burial is being carried out;
- (f) the public has proper and free access to all parts of the cemetery at all times;
- (g) the burial ground of the cemetery does not have any structure which was built without the permission of the Director-General and that no person is in possession or occupation of the burial ground or a part thereof without the permission of the Director-General;
[S 715/2006 wef 01/01/2007]
- (h) the cemetery is kept clean and free of noxious odours, smoke, fumes and rank vegetation; and
- (i) the cemetery is not used for the dumping of rubbish or the storage of materials.

Rules for cemetery maintained by Agency

10. In a cemetery maintained by the Agency —

- (a) no person shall cause any tombstone or monument to be erected on or over a grave plot without the permission of the Director-General;
[S 715/2006 wef 01/01/2007]
- (b) a tombstone or monument erected on or over a grave plot shall be of such type and size as may be approved by the Director-General;
[S 715/2006 wef 01/01/2007]
- (c) no inscription shall be made on such tombstone or monument without the approval of the Director-General;
[S 715/2006 wef 01/01/2007]
- (d) no person shall deposit any material for the construction of such tombstone or monument in any place other than within such areas as may be specified by the Director-General; and
[S 715/2006 wef 01/01/2007]
- (e) the Director-General may remove or cause to be removed any remaining material which has been left over from the construction of such tombstone or monument and may require the person who made the application for the burial of the corpse in respect of which such tombstone or monument has