

Baby and Infant Cremations – UK Accreditation Scheme

The Institute has been made aware of the time and costs incurred by cremation authorities in Scotland in complying with the recommendations made in the Bonomy report. **As a result, the Institute has devised an accreditation scheme that will be of interest to all crematoria throughout the UK.**

The scheme involves accreditation of a senior technician to supervise and mentor other staff members in the authority's baby and infant cremation process that is designed to maximise the recovery of ashes. Once accredited a senior technician can conduct the formal observations required.

The first step to gaining accreditation is to request the attendance of a board appointed Institute assessor to observe a senior technician undertake a baby cremation. The crematorium manager will provide copies of the published corporate policy, the process and procedure document and a risk assessment for handling the baby cremation tray. The Institute assessor will observe and ask questions of the senior technician following which a detailed report will be issued. Corroboration from the crematorium manager will be sought. Where appropriate, a senior technician will be awarded with an accredited mentor's certificate for baby and infant cremation.

An accredited senior technician can then apply to the Institute to train and observe other technicians at his/her crematorium perform baby cremations in accordance with the corporate policy and procedure previously demonstrated to the Institute. The senior technician will submit an official report that is verified by the crematorium manager and the Institute. Successful technicians will be certificated.

The crematorium manager and senior technician will be personally responsible for ensuring that their employers process and procedure are strictly adhered to and will make such declarations in respect of candidates.

The Institute will also establish a network of accredited crematoria, to be known as 'Good Practice Reference Centres for Infant Cremation'. These accredited crematoria will grow in number under this scheme and dialogue and discussion will be encouraged in an effort to share knowledge, experience, innovation and good practice. Group/area meetings will also be offered where necessary free of charge.

The only cost involved for a cremation authority is for the initial visit by a board appointed assessor to accredit the senior technician. The fee for this service will be £495. Should any cremation authority wish to accredit more than one senior technician the fee will be applied for any additional observation(s) by an Institute assessor.

All certification and subsequent verification of observation carried out by a senior technician will be provided by the Institute free of charge.

This initiative has the support of the Inspector of Crematoria.

The scheme is open to all UK crematoria.

For further information contact timiccm@btinternet.com

Or write to:

The Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management
ICCM National Office & Training Centre
City of London Cemetery
Manor Park
London E12 5DQ

