



June 2012

British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons

It has been reported that a number of burial authorities have been contacted and informed that it is illegal to adopt the BRAMM scheme only. In order to address this inaccurate statement note should be taken of the following:

Counsel concluded:

*In conclusion, while it is lawful to require membership of a named accreditation scheme, any such policy must allow for members of an equivalent scheme to be permitted to access work in the local authority's cemeteries. **Whether an alternative scheme is "equivalent" is a matter for the Burial Authority but which must be determined on the basis of a careful evidence based assessment of the effect of any differences between the schemes.** The importance of this evaluation arises from the fact that a large part of memorial masons' work will arise from municipal cemeteries. If the right of competent masons to access the local market in memorial masonry is to be interfered with, this must be done proportionately and hence it is necessary to substantiate why one accreditation scheme is preferred over another.*

From the above it is evident that a burial authority must investigate the available schemes and collect information from the administrators of the schemes in order to make an evaluation of the differences between schemes. By consulting in this way and making a balanced decision based on the information received a burial authority should not be challenged.

To assist burial authorities we have produced a table, overleaf, indicating what we believe to be the benefits of the BRAMM scheme. You may wish to use it for the purposes of comparison. Your committee will be able to evaluate the benefits of schemes before deciding which it should adopt. The decision and reasons should be minuted.

Remember: Article 3(1), Local authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 states:

Subject to the provisions of this order, a burial authority may do all such things as they consider necessary or desirable for the proper management, regulation and control of a cemetery.

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Are represented on the management board of BRAMM
and are working in equal partnership with Memorial Masons

The table below indicates what we believe to be the benefits of the BRAMM scheme.

Use the table to gather evidence of equivalence of any other scheme.

Benefits	BRAMM	Other Scheme 1	Other Scheme 2
50% representation by burial authorities via all major member led organisations being on the management board giving you your say.	✓		
Masons and the burial authority organisations on the management board have equal voting rights.	✓		
50% representation on any disciplinary panel making your voice heard.	✓		
No cost to your authority.	✓		
CPD ensuring that memorial masons working in your cemeteries are up to speed.	✓		
Free seminars for burial authorities.	✓		
Free CPD training for memorial masons.	✓		
Confidence that memorials will be installed in compliance with British Standard 8415.	✓		
Action taken when instances of non-compliance are reported by a burial authority.	✓		
Disciplinary panel of equal representation from masons and burial authorities	✓		
Appeals panel of equal representation from masons and burial authorities	✓		
An inspector is provided free of charge in instances of non-compliance or dispute.	✓		
Representation on the British Standards committee.	✓		
A <u>FREE</u> guide to installing memorials in accordance with British Standard 8415 that you can specify in your regulations.	✓		
Access to all registered mason's independently assessed insurance document and risk assessment via a comprehensive website. No need to gather these yourself.	✓		
Regular newsletters.	✓		
Support from a dedicated local authority liaison officer.	✓		
Burial authorities working directly and in equal partnership with memorial masons for the benefit of the bereaved.	✓		
All accredited industry qualifications are accepted as a route to obtaining fixer registration.	✓		
Provides an accredited qualification that is on the National Framework.	✓		
List any other benefits below:			