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| Changes to the Cemeteries and Crematoria Regulations |
| Summary for Class B cemetery trusts |
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The Cemeteries and Crematoria Regulations 2025 (2025 Regulations) commenced on 15 June 2025 and replaced the 2015 Regulations. The 2025 Regulations are available on the [Victorian Legislation website](https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/statutory-rules/cemeteries-and-crematoria-regulations-2025) <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/statutory-rules/cemeteries-and-crematoria-regulations-2025>.

This factsheet summarises key changes in the 2025 Regulations relevant to Class B cemetery trusts.

**Note:** For detailed information about the 2025 Regulations please refer to the [department’s website](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/cemeteries-and-crematoria/cemeteries-and-crematoria-regulations-2025) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/cemeteries-and-crematoria/cemeteries-and-crematoria-regulations-2025>.

# What’s new in the 2025 Regulations?

## Labelling coffins

Labelling of coffins, containers and receptacles is now required for interments of bodily remains and body parts in public cemeteries. Labels must display the name of the person or an identifier or container reference number if the person’s identity is unknown or if the container holds body parts from multiple people.

## Burial depth for graves with a sealed cap

Soil depth between a sealed cap and ground level has been reduced from 500 millimetres to 400 millimetres. This is a minimum depth only – trusts may use a greater depth at their discretion.

## Approving certain activities in cemeteries

Trusts now have greater flexibility and discretion to permit activities otherwise prohibited under the Model Rules. Trusts can pre-emptively permit activities to be conducted by an individual person or a class of persons (for example, the general public). Approvals for a class of persons must be made available on request by any person and either published on the trust’s website or prominently displayed on a sign in the cemetery grounds.

## Restrictions on activities in cemeteries

A person must not dig or excavate any trench, pit or hole without trust approval.

A person must not plant, remove, pick, prune, decorate or damage any plant, flower, shrub or tree in a cemetery without trust approval.

The prohibition on fishing, swimming or bathing now only applies if these activities are conducted ‘in a body of water in a cemetery’ to exclude cultural practices that involve ceremonial washing or bathing using a tap, basin or small pool.

## Use of fire in cemeteries

For improved fire risk management, the 2025 Regulations require prior trust approval before any fire can be lit or used. However, trusts may permit, through general policies, certain forms of fire they consider appropriate for the fire risk profile of the cemetery. Approvals to light or use fire may now be given to an individual person or a class of persons. Approvals for a class of persons must be made available on request by any person and either published on the trust’s website or prominently displayed on a sign in the cemetery grounds.

## Removal of objects from places of interment and memorials

Existing powers have been supplemented so that trusts now have explicit powers to remove objects and items from places of interment if they contravene a direction given by the cemetery trust or if those items may cause danger to any person or property. Trusts are expected to outline their notification and disposal methods in their policies and have processes for storing, returning or disposing of any removed items.

## Prescribed personal information

*Full address* has been replaced by *suburb, town or city* so that trusts are no longer compelled to give out the full address of the deceased or right of interment holder if someone requests a records search. The full address is still collected by trusts for operational purposes, but the trust can now only disclose the suburb, town or city of that address to the public.

## Forms

**Form 1** has been revised and is now called *Application for interment authorisation - bodily remains.* Using this form is **mandatory** for interments of bodily remains, a live-born child who dies within 28 days after birth and a still-born child. Supporting documentation requirements are detailed in the form.

**Form 3** is a new form called *Application for interment authority - body parts (excluding foetal remains)*. The form collects prescribed information that must be provided by a prescribed person in accordance with the Act and 2025 Regulations. Form 3 is used for applications for authority to inter body parts that are not foetal remains, but it is not a mandatory form.

**Form 4** is a new form called *Application for interment authority - foetal remains which are not a still-born child*. The form collects prescribed information that must be provided by a prescribed person in accordance with the Act and 2025 Regulations. Form 4 is used for applications for authority to inter foetal remains which are not a still-born child, but it is not a mandatory form.

Forms are available on the [department’s website](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/cemeteries-and-crematoria/interments) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/cemeteries-and-crematoria/interments>.

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