



Notification Number: 1990/327/F

## Order relating to the authorization of material used to manufacture coffins ///

Date received : 29/10/1990

End of Standstill : 11/02/1991

Issue of comments by : Italy

### Message

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TELEX 002

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (90) D/60477/2  
DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC AND 88/182/EEC  
TRANSLATION OF TELEX 001  
NOTIFICATION 90/0327/F

- 3B2 : 9001496.EN

#### 1. Structured Information Line

TLX 002 IND- 90 0327 F-- EN ----- 901029 --- ---

#### 2. Member State

France

#### 3. Department Responsible

SGCI, 216 rue de l'Université, 75007 Paris  
Commissioner for Standardization, 30-32 rue Guersant, 75017  
Paris

#### 3. Originating Department

Directorate-General for Health, 1 Place de Fontenoy, 75350  
Paris 070SP

#### 4. Notification Number

90/0327/F

#### 5. Title

Order relating to the authorization of material used to



manufacture coffins

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## 6. Products Concerned

Coffins made of wood particle board

## 7. Notification Under Another Act

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## 8. Main Content

This draft lays down the necessary specifications for wood particle boards used to manufacture coffins and the documentation relating to such coffins. The particle board must decompose in the soil in the same manner as natural wood, which restricts the amount of adhesive and hence the board's density. It must not have undergone any anti-damp or fire-resistant treatments, which retard its decomposition. It must not contain more than 10 percent urea-formaldehyde glue, which releases formaldehyde and inhibits the decomposition of corpses in cemeteries. The volume of pollutant gases emitted during incineration of the coffins must be limited, and the volume of ashes obtained after incineration during the normal crematory process must be similar to that produced by natural wood. In addition, the base of the coffin must be glued to the sides independently of the metal fixing elements which are less effective than in natural wood. Finally, the coffins must bear informative labelling at the point of sale and documentation to avoid fraudulent practices using natural wood, such as veneering the particle board with a layer of oak, for example.

## 9. Brief Statement of Grounds

These rules make it possible to use particle board in the manufacture of coffins, without any effects on public health arising from burial or cremation. Furthermore, tests show that coffins of the brand name Bogra, manufactured in the Netherlands, already meet these standards.

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## 10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

This order implements Article R 363-26 of the communal code. It is based on French standard B 51-272 on the measurement of formaldehyde contained in wood particle board by drilled extraction (French standard derived from European standard E 20) and on standard X 70-100 on the analysis of pyrolytic and combustion gas, or any other equivalent foreign standard.

## 11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure



No

**12. Grounds for the Emergency**

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D. WILLIAMSON  
COMEUR  
NNNN