

ICS 55.160

ISBN 0-626-09381-3

**CKS**  
**440\***

*\*This standard references other standards*  
Edition 2  
**1993**

**CKS**

**CKS 440**

**Coffins and caskets**

**CKS 440**  
Ed. 2

**Notice**

This specification was approved by the Department of Trade and Industry in July 1993.

Except for purposes of tender or contract no person may claim or create the impression that commodities comply with this specification.

**Foreword**

Edition 2 cancels and replaces the first edition (CKS 440:1975).

**Attention is drawn to the applicable standards given in clause 2 of this specification. These references are indispensable for the application of this specification.**

Obtainable from the

South African Bureau of Standards  
Private Bag X191  
Pretoria  
Republic of South Africa  
0001

Telephone : (012) 428-7911  
Fax : (012) 344-1568  
E-mail : sales@sabs.co.za  
Website : <http://www.sabs.co.za>

COPYRIGHT RESERVED

Printed in the Republic of South Africa by the  
South African Bureau of Standards

## **Coffins and caskets**

### **1 Scope**

This specification covers the requirements for the materials, construction, basic dimensions, finish and performance of the following two types (each of six classes) of coffins/caskets for human remains:

- type 1: conventional coffins/caskets for burials; and
- type 2: conventional coffins/caskets for cremations.

#### NOTES

- 1 The requirements, including dimensions, construction and performance, for coffins made from **corrugated fibreboard** are covered separately in clause 6.
- 2 The following requirements should be specified by the purchaser in tender invitations and in each order or contract:
  - a) the type and class required (see 4.1);
  - b) the dimensions required (see 4.3);
  - c) whether solid timber, a timber derivative or corrugated fibreboard is required, and the species of timber or surface veneer, as relevant (see 4.2.1 and 6.1);
  - d) whether a viewing panel is required (see 4.1.2);
  - e) whether the details on nameplates are to be printed or engraved (see 4.4.6);
  - f) the type of handles to be used, when relevant (see 4.4.4);
  - g) the finish required, when relevant (see 4.7 and 6.4);
  - h) the colour required, when relevant (see 4.7); and
  - i) the print pattern required, when relevant (see 6.4).

## CKS 440

Ed. 2

## 2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this specification. All standards are subject to revision and, since any reference to a standard is deemed to be a reference to the latest edition of that standard, parties to agreements based on this specification are encouraged to take steps to ensure the use of the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Information on currently valid national and international standards may be obtained from the South African Bureau of Standards.

CKS 5, *Laminated timber for furniture.*

ISO 2875, *Packaging - Complete, filled transport packages - Water spray test.*

SABS 456, *Corrugated board containers.*

SABS 540-1, *Fibreboard products - Part 1: Uncoated fibreboard.*

SABS 540-2, *Fibreboard products - Part 2: Coated fibreboard.*

SABS 630, *Decorative high gloss enamel paint for interior and exterior use.*

SABS 678, *Primers for wood for interior and exterior use.*

SABS 887, *Varnish for interior use.*

SABS 929, *Plywood and composite board.*

SABS 1099, *Hardwood furniture timber.*

SABS 1301, *Particle board: interior type (including ceiling board).*

SABS 1359, *Softwood timber for industrial use.*

SABS 1401-1, *Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles - Part 1: Basic requirements for piece-goods and made-up articles.*

SABS 1401-3, *Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles - Part 3: Cotton sheeting, sheets, and pillowcases.*

SABS 1401-16, *Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles - Part 16: Shrouding.*

SABS 065, *Glossary of timber terms and definitions.*

301 NFDA 1971 (National Funeral Directors Association), *Plastics bag for the transportation of human remains.*

## 3 Definitions

For the purposes of this specification, the relevant definitions given in SABS 065 and the following definitions apply:

**3.1 acceptable:** Acceptable to the purchaser.

**3.2 burial:** The disposal of human remains by placing them in a vault which is then sealed, or by committing them to a grave which is then closed with earth, as relevant.

**3.3 casket:** A rectangular chest with perpendicular sides and ends and in which a corpse is buried or cremated.

**3.4 coffin:** A chest with perpendicular sides and ends, which is broadest at the shoulder and tapers towards the ends.

**3.5 cover strip:** A strip of material used as a decorative covering of the joint between two components.

**3.6 cremation:** The reduction by combustion of human remains to ashes.

**3.7 double-wall corrugated fibreboard:** Corrugated fibreboard that consists of two corrugated members (single or two-ply) that are separated by a centre facing and that have a facing on each outer surface.

**3.8 medium density fibreboard:** A fibreboard manufactured by a wet or dry process from lignocellulosic fibres, with or without a resin binder.

**3.9 solid timber:** Timber that is not laminated in thickness but that may be laminated in width by so joining together, side by side, two or more pieces of timber (of width not less than the thickness of the component) as to make up the required dimension.

**3.10 viewing panel:** A removable section of the lid (or of the top tier), at the head-end of a class A coffin/casket.

## **4 Requirements**

### **4.1 Type and class**

#### **4.1.1 Type<sup>1)</sup>**

Coffins/caskets shall be of one of the following types, as specified by the purchaser:

- a) **type 1 coffins/caskets:** coffins/caskets for burial that have permanently fixed nameplates, ornaments and other hardware;
- b) **type 2 coffins/caskets:** coffins/caskets for cremation that have handles, ornaments and other hardware which are easily removable or which are manufactured from a material that will be reduced to ashes by combustion. Type 2 coffins/caskets shall be so constructed and finished as to comply with the applicable conditions for cremations<sup>2)</sup>.

---

1) Coffins/caskets are subject to the regulations of the Provincial Administration or Local Authority where the funeral is to take place.

2) See annex A for a typical example of the conditions for cremations laid down by Local Authorities.