

Importation of Mortal Remains

Prior to mortal remains being imported into the Republic the National Department of Health must issue an import permit.

In order for the National Department of Health to consider the issuance of such a permit the following documents must be submitted:

Documents Required

- a. Death certificate; It must state the cause of death other than a communicable disease
- b. Identity document or passport of the deceased
- c. Embalming certificate (if the person cannot be embalmed due to religious reasons, it must be stated);
- d. Letter from the deceased's family requesting the importation;
- e. A covering letter from either the embassy or the undertaker that includes:
 1. The Name of the deceased;
 2. Date of death;
 3. Cause of death
 4. Country of death
 5. Place of burial or cremation
 6. Full contact numbers including dialling codes
 7. Affidavit of undertaker stating that the remains have been embalmed and prepared in conformity to the regulations of the relevant city. This affidavit must be notarized.
 8. A letter from attending pathologist or medical doctor stating that the person did not suffer from a contagious or infectious disease at the time of death.
- f. If the documents are not in English a certified translation must be attached.

Please kindly note that the South African Government does not provide any financial assistance towards the costs of importing mortal remains to South Africa.

The South African Embassy will write to the Director General, Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria, to request the approval from the Department of National Health and Population Development for the importation of the mortal remains to South Africa.

Permission will be granted for the importation/exportation of the mortal remains to South Africa, on condition that:

- the body be embalmed the body must be sealed in an airtight container and placed in a sturdy no-transparent coffin
- An import permit must be obtained from the receiving health authority.

Once the permission for the importation of the mortal remains to South Africa is granted by the relevant authorities in Pretoria, the Embassy will issue a letter in this regard.