

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON GROUND ANCHORS

Recently a misleading advert regarding Stone-Safe ground support system was distributed in the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management Journal (ICCM) and in the Federation of Burial & Cremation Authorities (FBCA) magazine 'Resurgam'.

The article states that the *'British Standard requires that the headstone resists an overturning force of 150kgs at a height of one metre above said level'*. This is incorrect as stated in BS 8415 (NAMM CoWP section 2: 2a). [Memorials in which the highest part of any component is greater than 625mm above ground level shall be designed to withstand a horizontal load of 70kg applied at its apex or 1.5m from the ground, whichever is the lower, with the load being applied in the most critical direction.](#)

The article also states that the *'test is to be carried out in a soil condition equivalent to sharp sand'*. This information is incorrect, what the BS 8415 document. Section 5.3.2.1. states are that the soil conditions are of 'a) [Medium sand and gravel: Sand or gravel deposits removable by vigorous shovelling and into which a sharp pointed wooden post 50 mm square can with some difficulty be driven with a hammer \(with a mass not exceeding 5 kg\)](#)

However, Section 5.3.3.2. of BS 8415 also states *'Soil types other than those in 5.3.2'* states that *'For soil types other than those listed in 5.3.2, e.g. [loose sands and silts](#), soft clays, full engineering computations shall be submitted with the application form for the burial authority approval.'*

The article also states that *'Currently, following public testing 'the only single precast concrete base/stability system that complies with the British Standard (BS 8415 2005+A2 2012) and satisfies the British Standards Institute is the Stone-Safe bolted headstone solution –*

This information is completely incorrect.

All currently NAMM accredited ground anchors are strictly tested to BS 8415 2005+A2 2012 criteria and endorsed by an independent Civil and Structural Engineer and Fellow of the Geological Society Member 'Nigel Thornton B.Sc (Hons) C.Eng MICE CMIHT FGS'

The article also fails to mention that poured foundations as prescribed by the NAMM CoWP meet the requirement.

There is no current British Standards specification for the design of an artificial sand testing pit within BS 8415. A full report on the spurious testing carried out by Stone-Safe is available on the NAMM web site along with serious concerns from NAMM Technical Committee which have been forwarded to the BSI B/545 Committee.

[The National Association of Memorial Masons \(NAMM\) advice is to disregard this advertisement.](#)