Embalming:

Modern embalming was introduced and developed in Europe by Great Britain and then France in 1963 with the creation of the Institut Français de Thanatopraxie.

Embalming is generally defined as the injection of a preserving and hygienic solution into the vascular system which allows the temporary preservation of the body and the presentation of the deceased under optimal aesthetic and hygienic conditions.

In practice, Formaldehyde has always been used as a biocide agent.

Evaluation and classification of the health risk:

Formaldehyde has been classified as a category 2 carcinogen at the European level, i.e. as a substance for which there is a strong presumption of being carcinogenic in humans.

For the CICR, an offshoot of the World Health Organisation (WHO), formaldehyde is classified in the most severe group (group 1), which includes agents which are carcinogenic in humans.

Following this classification and expert work performed by ANSES, France filed in 2011 an application with the European agency for chemical substances for the review of the European classification of formaldehyde as a **proven carcinogen**, thus joining the classification level of WHO and the American National Toxicology Program (NTP).

CMR substitution principle: a public priority that must be implemented for embalming

According to ANSES, *"the substitution of CMR has become **a permanent mission** for ANSES in 2010. The continuation of actions undertaken for the promotion and help with substitution is clearly stated in the work health plan. For this reason ANSES plans to continue its work relaunching a new survey and examining in detail the substitution examples already published. "*

Today all the conditions have been met to establish that **formaldehyde will no longer be used in embalming** and, instead, it will be substituted by *PREVENTOL P-100 as a biocide active substance*.

This non-carcinogenic agent, does not accumulate in the environment, is biodegradable and does not modify the operating procedure for embalming nor the work technique of embalmers.

Products that use it as an active substance have already been approved by the Ministry of Health.

Safebalm®

Safebalm® is the new generation of embalming fluid formulated thanks to research on *PREVENTOL P--100 (Bronopol)* as a biocide agent.

These fluids are non-carcinogenic for the embalmer and easy to use whilst taking into account their needs.

The function of **Safebalm®** as a product is to disinfect and preserve the deceased in order to delay and slow down decomposition.

The difference between **Safebalm®** compared to formaldehyde-based products is that the tissues remain supple.

The dosages recommended are for effective preservation of the deceased for 6 to 10 days.

However, by adjusting the quantity of fluid injected a longer preservation time may be obtained in case of repatriation, for example.

Safebalm® guarantees a better comfort of use than formaldehyde-based fluids.

Safebalm® is available in three products:

Arterial: odourless orange fluid.

Cavity : odourless and colourless fluid.

Gel : odourless orange embalming paste

Packaging

Safebalm® fluids are available in one litre bottles packed in cartons containing 10 units.

Safebalm® gel is available in 500 g tubs.

Procedure for the use of Safebalm®Arterial and Cavity

The following procedure should be used when processing with **Safebalm®** :

Intra-arterial injection Safebalm® Arterial:

At least 7 litres of solution diluted with water as below should be injected in two stages.

The use of pre and/or co-injection formaldehyde-free products does not affect the performance of the product in any way.

The recommended dosage is a minimum of 5% and a maximum of 7.5%.

Special circumstances:
In the case of at least one of the following circumstances:
- Heavily built deceased.
- Recently deceased person
- Long exposure

Under these conditions, and in order to

- carry out a greater diffusion on injection allowing a better drainage of physiological fluids
- avoid fast dehydration
- increase the neutralising power of the product

The following dose should be used

- a proportion of 5 to 7,5% of **Safebalm®** diluted in cold water to make a total of 9 litres.

Safebalm® Cavity Injection:

- Application of 200 ml of **Safebalm®** Cavity in the thorax (in superimposed layers).
- Application of 300 ml of **Safebalm®** Cavity in the abdomen (in superimposed layers).

Precautions for use:

Individual Personal Protective Equipment must be worn for all manipulations of the fluid.

The product should be stored in a dry place protected from frost and severe heat. The dosage and use by date should be strictly adhered to.

A technical data sheet is inserted in each carton of **Safebalm®** products.

It is strongly recommended that users attend training sessions in order to become familiar with this product. For further information please refer to:
www.safebalm.com