

Spray Tanning – Code of Practice 12

Special Treatment Premises

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this Code of Practice (COP) is to support the policy decisions and conditions of licence adopted by the Council in respect of Special Treatments Establishments.

2.0 Scope

This COP details specific requirements for sunless self-tanning spray booths and guns in addition to those laid down in the Regulations prescribing standard conditions applicable to all special treatment premises.

3.0 Definitions

3.1 Spray Tanning

This is a process where the body is sprayed either in an automated spray tan booth or manually airbrush sprayed on with a spray gun with a tanning product DH (Dihydroxyacetone), which reacts with the amino acids in the top layer of the skin to produce a natural tanned look.

3.2 Cleaning

This is a physical process which removes soil e.g. slime, dust, dirt and organic matter, along with a large proportion of germs. Cleaning with hot water and detergent breaks up grease and dirt on floors and surfaces. Cleaning is also essential prior to disinfection.

3.3 Disinfectant

For the purposes of these treatments a high level disinfectant relates to disinfectants capable of reducing the number of viable bacteria and blood borne viruses including Hepatitis B & C and HIV but which may not necessarily inactivate some viruses and bacterial spores. Where the disinfectant requires dilution this must be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions using clean potable water. Once diluted the disinfectant must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

4.0 Chemical usage

4.1 All substances held on the premises and used in the special treatments must be used and stored in properly labelled containers in accordance with manufacture's instructions.

4.2 Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) must be available for all hazardous chemicals held and/or used at the premise including those used in treatments and for any other purpose. Although there may be no hazardous substances for the purpose of (COSHH) the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002, there may be ingredients which can give cause for concern. For example: Juglans Regia (Walnut) which can cause possible allergic reactions to clients when using tanning products containing this ingredient.

5.0 Client consultation

5.1 All clients must be offered a patch test at least 24 hours before the treatment to enable any adverse reaction on the skin to be monitored. If any irritation, redness or itching occurs the client should not have the treatment.

This procedure needs to be repeated every 6 months to ensure that there are no allergies to the products. The result of the patch test should be recorded on the medical consultation form.

A client consultation form should be completed and tanning should not be offered to clients who have:

- Psoriasis or dry flaky skin
- Severe eczema
- Cuts or abrasions
- Clients with respiratory problems and asthma should be warned about the nature of the procedure
- Some products are sugar based and can cause the blood sugar levels to rise. Therefore clients who have a diabetic condition should consult with a physician before undertaking the treatment
- Over exposed or sun burnt skin
- In the first trimester of pregnancy. Although the tanning products are safe, due to an imbalance with hormones it is possible the tan may become patchy and uneven. In the 2nd and 3rd trimester there is a risk of uneven pigmentation as the hormones settle down.

5.2 Adequate pre and aftercare advice appropriate to treatment must be given. This should be written advice in the first instance after which time verbal advice is sufficient.

5.3 Consultation records must be held at the premises and available for inspection by an authorised officer; copies of aftercare advice must be available for inspection.

5.4 Signed parental consent should be obtained for all clients under 16 years of age

6.0 Ventilation

6.1 The treatment room should have an air change of at least three times the cubic capacity of the room per hour. The treatment room should be fully enclosed while the treatment is being undertaken to avoid air borne contamination.

7.0 Exposure Control/Personal Protection

7.1 The issue of personal protection is particularly evident with the manual air brush systems. Disposable gloves of the approved type and single use masks complying with FFP2 EN149:2001 should be used.

8.0 Slips and Trips

8.1 The client and operator should be standing on a non-slip surface, as the treatment is water based there is a potential slip risk. The use of anti-slip matting and regular cleaning of the booth will reduce these types of accidents. Any contamination must not be "walked out" of the treatment room.

9.0 Legionella Bacteria

The issue of legionella is acknowledged as a potential problem with the automatic spray booth system and should be given due consideration. The spray booth equipment incorporates an automatic wash cycle which cleans the cubicle after each session. The booth is connected to the mains water supply and the water is stored in small holding tanks.

These tanks may provide the ideal conditions for legionella bacteria, as they can multiply in hot/cold water systems/storage tanks and in this case they may spread through the spraying mechanism.

Although the generally high throughput and relatively low volume of water held in these small water systems reduces the likelihood of the bacteria reaching dangerous concentrations, salon owners are advised to carry out a risk assessment to identify and assess potential sources of exposure.

10.0 Qualifications

10.1 All operators must be suitably trained before administering the treatment. A trade qualification is acceptable.

11.0 Review

This Code of Practice will be reviewed regularly and updated in light of current industry guidance and legal opinion. Any changes will be notified to licensees and will be attached as conditions to your licence with effect from the date of the next renewal of your licence.