

Manager

Date:
Our Ref: Sunbed safety
Contact: Health & Safety Team
Phone: (01273) 294429
Fax: (01273) 292410
e-mail: EHL.Safety@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010

“Businesses will face fines of up to £20,000 if they allow under 18s to use sunbeds from Friday 8 April 2011”, Public Health Minister Anne Milton announced earlier this year.

Following the introduction of the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010, and as part of a new initiative, jointly coordinated by all local Councils in East and West Sussex, Officers of Brighton & Hove’s Environmental Health & Licensing department will be looking specifically at businesses within the beauty industry, between October and December of this year. You may see articles in the local press regarding this.

This letter is sent to your business because it is understood that you are offering sunbed tanning. If you are no-longer or have never offered sunbed tanning, please contact the team using one of the above contact methods.

The introduction of The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 aims to protect under 18s in search of a year-round tan from putting their health at risk.

The Act will prevent under 18 year olds from:

- being allowed to use tanning salons and sunbeds at premises including beauty salons, leisure centres, gyms and hotels;
- being offered the use of a sunbed; and
- being allowed to be in an area that is reserved for sunbed users.

Over-exposure to the UV rays has become the main cause of skin cancer. Despite this danger, the fashion for sun-kissed skin has led to a surge in demand for the artificial tanning industry.

The change in the law comes as Cancer Research UK launches the 2011 SunSmart campaign, which shows around two people under 35 are diagnosed with melanoma – the more serious form of skin cancer – each day. On average, six per cent of 11-17 year olds in England use sunbeds with 50 per cent of 15-17 year-old girls in Liverpool and Sunderland using them.

Local Authorities, such as Brighton and Hove City Council will be responsible for enforcing the Act.

Initially, we are offering guidance in the form of this letter and providing a copy of the Department of Health Guidance which is enclosed. However, officers may also inspect businesses and premises to make sure they are complying with the new regulations. Enforcement action may be taken against those businesses failing to meet their legal requirements.

Further information can be gathered from the Department of Health website at www.dh.gov.uk and FREE INFORMATION posters and leaflets can be ordered from the Cancer Research UK website, www.sunsmart.org.uk and clicking on their 'Resources' tab.

If you are still unsure of the legal requirements affecting your business regarding sunbed tanning, would like further advice regarding the The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 or other health and safety legislation that may affect your business, please do not hesitate to contact the Health and Safety team on (01273) 294429 or at EHL.Safety@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

Roy Pickard
Environmental Health Manager (Health & Safety)

Encl. Department of Health Guidance – Information for Sunbed Businesses

*If requested by a third party, under the provisions of the **Freedom of Information Act 2000**, the contents of this letter may be disclosed by Brighton and Hove City Council. For further advice please contact (01273) 291207 or search our website on www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/foi.*