

Health and Safety Inspection of Hairdressing and Nail Salons

Did You Know?

“Besides bacterial infections, nail fungus and ringworm infections can be transmitted to nail salon customers during their visits”.

Hairdressing and nail salons are expanding small-business sectors, as a result, health concerns is rising associated with working in these environments. During nail enhancement work, technicians are potentially exposed to a number of substances, such as solvents, lacquers, acrylic polymers (including ethyl methacrylate [EMA]), adhesives, and dust.

Studies have highlighted respiratory symptoms and musculoskeletal and skin problems. Hairdressing work has been associated with occupational asthma (Slater et al., 2000), rhinitis, and occupational contact dermatitis (Ferrari, Moscato, & Imbriani, 2005, and a recent study reported musculoskeletal, skin, and respiratory symptoms in hairdressers (Bradshaw, Harris-Roberts, Bowen, Rahman, & Fishwick, 2011).

One of the Environmental Health Practitioners (EHP) duty is to inspect Hairdressing and Nail Salon and analyse the information gained to identify risks to health and taking measures to control these risks.

Inspection questions about the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health at Hairdressing and Nail Salons is produced, as shown on Table – 1.

Table-1

Question	Hairdressers			Hairdressing and Nail Services		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Does the business keep a list of the hairdressing and beauty products that they use and record which of these products are potentially hazardous to human health?						
Does the business keep any written procedures on how to control exposure, etc.?						
Do they consider the possible associated health risks when buying a new hairdressing/nail salon product?						
Does anyone check that the employees follow health and safety procedures and that they implement their health and safety training?						
General Skin Care and Glove Use	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Are gloves provided by the business for all work involving products/chemicals and wet work?						
Are gloves provided on a personal and single-use only basis?						
Does management provide instructions/guidance on how to put on and remove gloves without contaminating the hands?						
What type of glove is used?						
Use of Products and Tools in Salons Providing Nail Services	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Are treatment tables wiped clean between clients?						

Do you use makeup brushes for dusting down equipment?						
Are single-use, sterile instruments used whenever possible?						
Is non disposable equipment effectively cleaned, disinfected, and/or sterilized between clients?						
Does the business use an autoclave?						
Do employees wear a disposable dust mask when carrying out nail services?						
Are containers that aren't being used kept closed thus reducing exposure?						
Are ventilated treatment tables used that vent to the outside?						
Are electric drills used?						
If yes, is use restricted to filing artificial nails only (not natural nails)?						