

# HSE Consultation on revision of guidance leaflet INDG209 ‘Reducing health risks from the use of UV tanning equipment’

## Background

- 1 Since INDG209 was published in the mid 1990s there has been considerable technological change in the sunbed industry as well as an expansion in sunbed use. There have also been concerns raised about the number of children and young people using sunbeds.
- 2 HSE has worked with the Department of Health (DH) and with key stakeholders (see Annex) to produce a revision of the guidance.
- 3 In December 2007 the Government announced its Cancer Reform Strategy. See [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_081006](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081006)). One area of concern is the use of cosmetic tanning salons (especially unstaffed ones), with the risks of excessive exposure by children and young people and lack of adequate information provided to customers about the health risks of using sunbeds. Under the Strategy DH is reviewing options for regulation of the industry and as a first step will gather more information about the number and distribution of sunbeds and the scale of sunbed use by minors.
- 4 HSE is putting a draft of the revised guidance out for consultation as a helpful step in support of the Cancer Strategy.

## The revised guidance

- 5 The guidance, which is primarily aimed at employers or self-employed people who operate UV tanning equipment (eg sunlamps, sunbeds, tanning booths), but also has advice for their customers:
  - outlines the main legal responsibilities of UV operators under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999;
  - provides information on the hazards associated with running UV tanning equipment;
  - gives sensible advice on conducting an assessment of the risk of operating UV tanning equipment;
  - provides advice on how to safely operate UV tanning equipment; and
  - has a separate section with information for customers.
- 6 Several sections from the existing guidance have been updated or changed:
  - Introduction
    - Extra information on the risks of exposure to UV radiation for young people has been included, referring to WHO guidelines.
  - Part 1 Information for UV tanning equipment operators
    - This section has been overhauled, embodying HSE’s 5 steps to risk assessment, to clearly explain operators’ legal responsibilities, the common hazards, how to assess the risk, and advice on operating UV tanning equipment safely, including provisions on staffing.

- Part 2 Customer advice
  - Contains facts to consider when deciding whether to use UV tanning equipment.
  - Information on skin types.

## Your opportunity to give us your comments

If you have any comments on the revised guidance, please send them to the address below.

The current version of INDG209 can be found on the HSE website at <http://hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg209.pdf>, for comparison.

## Timetable for responses

This consultation exercise is being conducted for 12 weeks from 24 April 2008, so your response must reach the address below by 17 July 2008. HSE will then consider the responses, with the help of the stakeholder group. Once a final revised version has been agreed, HSE aims to publish it as soon as possible.

Please send your written comments to:

Sarah Senior  
7NW Rose Court  
2 Southwark Bridge  
London SE1 9HS

email: [sunbeds@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sunbeds@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

If you have any questions about the guidance or the consultation exercise, please contact Mrs Sarah Senior on 020 7717 6266. We will acknowledge receipt of your comments with a standard letter or email.

## What to do if you have a complaint about this consultation exercise

If you are not satisfied with the way this consultation exercise has been conducted you can complain by contacting:

Robert Parkes  
Health and Safety Executive  
Wren House  
Hedgerows Business Park  
Colchester Road  
Springfield  
Chelmsford CM2 5PF

email: [robert.parkes@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:robert.parkes@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

We aim to respond to complaints within 10 working days. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your complaint you can raise the matter with the Chief Executive of HSE – contact details are on the HSE website (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/>).

# Information held under the Data Protection Act 1998

If you reply to this consultation in a personal capacity, rather than as a post holder of an organisation, you should be aware that information you provide may constitute “personal data” in the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998. For the purposes of this Act, HSE is the “data controller” and will process the data for health, safety and environmental purposes. HSE may disclose this data to any person or organisation for the purposes for which it was collected, or where the Act allows disclosure. You have the right to ask for a copy of the data and to ask for inaccurate data to be corrected.

## Annex

### **Working Group membership**

■ Key stakeholders:

- Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS),
- Cancer Research UK (CRUK),
- the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), and
- The Sunbed Association (TSA).

■ Officials attended from the following Governments/Departments:

- the Welsh Assembly Government,
- the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland (HSE NI),
- the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), and
- the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).