



A Guide for Employers, Managers and those in Control of Sunbeds in relation to the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010

This guidance has been produced for businesses that provide a sunbed facility to help them comply with the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010. From **8th April 2011** the Act imposes a duty on businesses providing a sunbed facility to ensure no person under the age of 18 uses a sunbed or is at any time present in a room that contains a sunbed. This law has been introduced to protect young people from the dangers associated with using sunbeds, for instance, being burnt or the possibility of developing skin cancer.

What duties does the new law impose?

A person or company that operates a sunbed business must ensure that:-

1. No person aged under 18 uses a sunbed;
2. No offer is made to a person aged under 18 to use a sunbed; and
3. No person aged under 18 is at any time present in a “restricted zone”*.

“*Restricted zone*” means the room containing a sunbed (e.g. if the sunbed is located in a public changing room at a sports centre then the whole changing room is a restricted zone).

“*Sunbed business*” is a business that involves making one or more sunbeds available for use on their premises. “Sunbed” means an electrically-powered device designed to produce tanning of the human skin by the emission of ultra-violet radiation.

*Employees (under 18s) of sunbed businesses may enter a restricted zone (e.g. to clean a sunbed machine that is switched off).

Good practice guidance on how to prevent under 18s from using your sunbeds

- If a customer fails to produce **valid photo-ID** that confirms his or her age the sunbed should be refused.
- Prominently **display a “no under 18s” sign** at the entrance to the sunbed businesses and next to the sunbed.
- Ensure that **access to the sunbed and the restricted zone is adequately controlled at all times** to prevent unauthorised use (e.g. supervision of the sunbed/restricted zone by a member of staff or other equally effective measure).
- Ensure that persons under the **age of 18 are never present*** in a restricted zone.
- If the current location of the sunbed makes it impossible to prevent a person under the age of 18 from entering a restricted zone then the sunbed must be switched off until it can be relocated inside a restricted zone.
- **Do not offer** a sunbed treatment to a person that is under the age of 18.
- **Train staff** to ask for ID and in how you control access to the sunbed.

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- Keep a refusal register (include the date and time of refusal, their name, whether they had any identification and staff member involved).
- A parent cannot give consent for their child to use a sunbed and any such requests should be refused.
- Clients (under the age of 18) that wish to use a sunbed for medical reasons should be referred to their Doctor.
- Sunbed businesses do not need a license or registration with the Council to operate.

Penalty

If a business fails to comply with the Sunbeds (Regulations) Act 2010 then they may be liable to prosecution by their local Council and, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding £20,000. It is a defence for a sunbed business to demonstrate that they took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid committing the offence.

Further information

- [The Sunbeds \(Regulation\) Act 2010](#)
- [The Department of Health](#)
- The [Health and Safety Executive](#) publish an information booklet on reducing health risks from the use of ultraviolet (UV) tanning equipment (INDG209) and a poster.
- [Sunsmart](#) gives information about the health risks associated with using sunbeds. Sunsmart is a website of Cancer Research UK.

For all other enquiries please contact us:

Tel: 01202 261700 or

[e-mail](mailto:environment@poole.gov.uk) environment@poole.gov.uk