



ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

From Richard Warden, Chairman of the Sunbed Association and Managing Director of Helionova Limited



Q What does 0.3 mean to salons?

A This figure closely resembles the maximum erythema output from the sun when measured at midday in summer in the Mediterranean (from Tan Biz page 18. May 2007)

Q So as an operator of sunbeds, what should I do now?

A Ensure that any new or reconditioned equipment you buy, rent or income share is 0.3 compliant.

Q What do I do if my existing sunbed isn't compliant?

A All New Ultrasun equipment is 0.3 compliant, therefore we can offer you a generous part exchange allowance, for your existing sunbed(s).

Q As the new irradiance level does not come into action until 1st April 2009, wouldn't I be better to have sunbeds now with stronger, non compliant tubes?

A Very unlikely, as once the H.S.E and Department of Health make a ruling on sunbeds already in use, you will have to become 0.3 compliant, or risk being prosecuted and fined.

Q Can we expect investigators to come round with UV testing equipment?

A The probability is that officials from Trading Standards will visit commercial premises offering sunbeds (i.e. beauty salons, gyms, health clubs, hairdressing salons and tanning studios etc) and the onus will be on the operator to prove that their sunbeds are compliant. With our clients and customers we will leave a sunbed passport confirming our new sunbeds and recently serviced sunbeds are 0.3 compliant.

NEW MAXIMUM IRRADIANCE LEVEL FOR UV TANNING EQUIPMENT



All suppliers of UV tanning equipment (equipment being traded new or second hand) have a legal obligation to meet the requirements of the UK Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994. Suppliers who trade equipment which is not compliant with these Regulations face prosecution by an enforcement authority. These Regulations implement, in the UK, the EC Low Voltage Directive (LVD) which requires electrical equipment placed on the market to be "safe" giving due consideration to good engineering practice, current scientific knowledge and so on.

How does a supplier demonstrate that their tanning equipment is compliant with these Regulations? There is a European Standard (EN 60335-2-27) which governs the manufacture of UV tanning equipment (construction, electrical safety, mechanical strength, UV output and so on). Manufacturing UV tanning equipment to the requirements of this Standard provides a presumption of conformity with the LVD and, in turn, the requirements of the UK Electrical Equipment Safety Regulations. Equipment carrying the CE mark is the manufacturer's declaration that the equipment meets the European Standard.

The European Standard has recently been reviewed and the revised version was agreed on 1 October 2008 and will come into force on 1 April 2009 (the previous Standard will also be withdrawn on 1 April 2009)

0.3 W/m² This new maximum level was adopted by the EC Authorities following a recommendation by the EU Scientific Committee on Consumer Products and is considered to be comparable to the mid-day sun in the Mediterranean. Any level above this was considered to be unsafe. Since this new level is lower than permitted in the previous European Standard, tanning session times will need to be increased to achieve expected tanning results. This new level will be introduced in every member state in the European Community.

One of the main changes to the European Standard is the introduction of a new maximum irradiance level of 0.3 W/m².

From 1 April 2009, a supplier trading UV tanning equipment which exceeds the new irradiance level can be prosecuted for trading equipment which is deemed to be unsafe and, therefore, in breach of the UK Electrical Equipment Safety Regulations. A Court of Law would undoubtedly take account of a safety level agreed by the European Authorities. These Regulations do not cover UV tanning equipment in service and there is equipment being operated which is above the new irradiance level. There would be an anomaly if traded equipment had to be compliant but non-compliant equipment was allowed to continue in service. The European Authorities agreed that not only equipment being traded must be compliant but also that all equipment in service (equipment in service before 1 April 2009) must be compliant with the new irradiance level (following necessary modifications to the equipment). How and when equipment in service will be brought into line in the UK will shortly be announced following current consideration of this issue by the Health & Safety Executive and the Department of Health.