

## HAIRDRESSING 1

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The general principles of health and safety are to be found *in Advice Sheets 1 to 10*. However, this sheet contains information on meeting your legal requirements, which has been tailored to your specific needs.

### CARRYING OUT YOUR COSHH ASSESSMENT

#### 1. Gathering Information

- Read the “Blue Book” *A Guide To The Health And Safety Of Salon Hair Products* in order to find out more about the hazardous nature of the products you use.
- Using the **Hairdressers COSHH Assessment Form** provided, list all the processes which you carry out involving these products. There may be other products which you use which are not listed e.g. general cleaning substances, aromatherapy oils.

#### 2. Assessing the Risk

You now need to decide at what points somebody might be injured or suffer ill-health. In your opinion, *how likely is this?* For example:

- Accidental or prolonged contact of the product with the skin
- Splashes, particularly when mixing, and especially to the eyes
- Contact with food and food utensils e.g. mixing of products using food utensils, preparation in sinks used for washing cups, etc
- Contact with incompatible substances e.g. stainless steel, other cleaning chemicals.
- Build up of vapours, aerosols and dusts (from powdered preparations) in the air because of poor ventilation

Observe practices and talk to your staff. Remember to be objective. *Find out what is really happening in your salon.*

Record the risks you have identified on the **Hairdressers COSHH Assessment Form**.

## Safe Procedures

Write down the actual procedures and precautions which must be followed.

Examples of precautions are:

- Use of correct equipment. This may differ for various processes, so refer to the “Blue Book” and suppliers’ guidance
- Set aside suitable preparation areas, separate from staff wash-hand basins and sinks used to wash cups and other food utensils
- Provide sufficient ventilation. Mechanical ventilation is strongly recommended. Aim to achieve about 10-air changes per hour
- Provide and use suitable protective equipment especially gloves and aprons

## 4. Spillage and First Aid Procedure

- Make sure you have appropriate first-aid equipment
- Have you thought through how you would deal with foreseeable incidents e.g. spillage’s, splashes and burns

## 5. Training

- Take all you staff through your **Hairdressers COSHH Assessment Form**
- Explain the risk involved, the precautions to be taken and emergency procedures
- Record who has been trained by whom and when. Use the **Training Record Form** provided in the pack. This form should also be used for other health and safety training.
- Remember *it is your duty to make sure your staff have been instructed and trained* in the safe working practices, regardless of their previous employment, experience or training

## **CLEANING & HYGIENE**

You must have a formal cleaning regime for equipment. It should include, *as a minimum standard*, the following features:

- Wash all equipment in hot water and detergent between each client.
- Sterilise and disinfect equipment if they have come into contact with cuts, wounds or skin conditions
- Sterilise or disinfect equipment daily. Refer to suppliers recommendations for correct dilution and immersion times
- Change sterilising or disinfecting solution daily

Sinks used for cleaning equipment and missing products *must be kept* separate from those used for staff hygiene and food utensils.