Iowa Department of Public Health
Promoting and Protecting the Health of Iowans

Thomas Newton, MPP, REHS
Director

Chester J. Culver
Governor

Patty Judge
Lt. Governor

January 6, 2011

Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)
INFORMATION NOTICE 2011-T01: 24 HOUR TANNING FACILITIES COMPUTER REQUIREMENT

Addressees:

All owner/managers of 24-hour electronically controlled tanning facilities

Purpose:

The IDPH is issuing this Information Notice (IN) to inform you of possible violations of Iowa Administrative Code 641 Chapter 46.

Legal Grounds:

Chapter 46Rules governing tanning facilities, 641-46.5(9)"c" states that a record shall be kept by the facility operator of each consumer's total number of tanning visits and tanning times, exposure lengths in minutes…from the use of a tanning device.

Chapter 46 Rules governing tanning facilities, 641-46.5"i" states that the operator shall limit the exposure of the consumer to the maximum exposure frequency and session duration recommended by the manufacturer.

Description of Circumstances:

During several recent inspections of facilities which offer 24-hour access to the tanning units, a computer problem has been identified that places facilities using a computer to control tanning sessions in violation of these requirements.

The computer at certain facilities does not accurately log the consumer's tanning minutes. The computer may be accurately shutting off the session based on the number of minutes allowed by the fob, but it is logging inaccurate minutes, not the actual minutes of the tanning session. Example: A consumer tans for 10 minutes but the computer logs 20 minutes.

There is no accurate verification of the actual length in minutes of the tanning session; therefore this is the first violation. There is no proof that the exposure schedules recommended by the manufacturer of the unit have been followed creating the second violation.

Solution:

1. All computers MUST accurately log the consumer's name, date of session, and number of minutes actually used during that session, OR
2. A trained operator must be present during all tanning sessions.

One of these solutions must be in place at your facility by February 15, 2011. All inspections noting violations to either of these requirements after February 15, 2011 will result in escalated enforcement actions.

24-hour access to tanning units has been accepted based on a previous assurances that the computer could accurately control and log the tanning sessions. If the computer cannot be programmed to do this, the 24-hour access authority will be withdrawn.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this information notice, please notify me.

Charlene Craig, Health Physicist
Bureau of Radiological Health
515/281-0415
FAX 515/281-4529
ccraig@idph.state.ia.us