IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Bureau of Radiological Health (BRH)
Lucas State Office Building, 5th Floor
321 East 12th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319

April, 2011

IDPH INFORMATION NOTICE: 2011-T01: Use of red light therapy (633nm) lamps in tanning units

ADDRESSEES: All facilities possessing tanning units

PURPOSE:

The Iowa Department of Public Health's BRH is issuing this information notice to inform Iowa tanning facilities of information received from the FDA regarding the use of red light therapy (633nm) lamps in tanning units.

DISCUSSION:

The FDA has recently notified the BRH that although red light therapy lamps are approved for use in red light therapy units, they MAY NOT be used in tanning units. Units made for UV light may not hold lamps that exceed 400 nm output. Red light therapy lamps are 633 nm.

We had previously informed some permit holders that the lamp exchange was permissible. But based on the FDA, any red light therapy lamp installed in a tanning unit should be removed immediately. Only lamps indicated on the unit labeling or equivalent are permissible in tanning units.

ACTION:

Therefore, please remove any red light therapy lamps from your tanning units. Use them only in the units specified for red light therapy use. Inspectors will be checking lamps and citing any violations. Using incorrect lamps in a tanning unit is also a FDA violation.

We appreciate your cooperation in complying with this corrective action.

Please contact this office at 515-281-3478 if you have any questions.

Melanie Rasmusson, Chief Date: 4.29.2011