



Australian Government
Radiation Health Committee

STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN STANDARD ON SOLARIA FOR COSMETIC PURPOSES (AS/NZS 2635:2002)

March 2004

The Australian population has high rates of malignant melanoma and skin cancer which are related to high levels of ultraviolet radiation exposure. Where people choose to expose themselves to ultraviolet radiation from solarium for cosmetic purposes, the Radiation Health Committee believes this may be harmful and that it is important to reduce the risks by application of the Australian/New Zealand Standard on Solarium for Cosmetic Purposes AS/NZS 2635:2002 to the operation of solarium.

The Standard:

- prohibits the use of solarium by persons under the age of 15, requires parental consent for persons under the age of 18 before the use of solarium can occur, requires a signed and dated client consent form for all eligible users, and requires operators to be trained in the requirements of the Standard;
- does not allow the exposure of people with fair skin (skin type I^a) to solarium;
- requires supervision of users by trained operators at all times;
- for repeat exposures, requires at least 48 hours between exposures and such exposures can not exceed 3 Minimum Erythemal Doses per week;
- does not allow claims of non-cosmetic health benefit of solarium to be used in their promotion;
- requires the use of protective goggles at all times;
- provides for solarium to have a maximum intensity of 1.5 W/m² of erythemally effective ultraviolet radiation, which is five times the intensity of solar radiation; and
- does not allow the use of UVC emissions in solarium.

The Radiation Health Committee notes that unsupervised, self-service solarium do not conform to the Standard.

The Radiation Health Committee considers that the provisions of the Standard are presented in a manner that the Standard could be implemented by persons without specialised technical knowledge of ultraviolet protection.

The Radiation Health Committee will continue to monitor the level of compliance with the Standard and the risks of ultraviolet radiation exposure from solarium.

Conclusion

The Radiation Health Committee recommends that to reduce the risk from the harmful effects of cosmetic uses of solarium, all solarium operators comply fully with the Australian/New Zealand Standard on Solarium for Cosmetic Purposes AS/NZS 2635:2002.

^a Skin type I is 'Fair skin, which always burns, never tans and is often accompanied by red hair and freckles'.