



Health and Safety Standards for Tanning Facilities

Department of Health and Community Services
Population Health Branch

January 2014
(Revised January 2025)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Definitions	1
Introduction	2
Legislation	2
Prohibition	3
Registration	3
Inspection	4
Health Warning Signs	4
Health Risk Information	5
Protective Eyewear	6
Tanning Bed Timers	6
Self-Service Tanning Beds	6

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Health Warning Sign – Point of Sale	iii
Appendix 2: Health Warning Sign – Equipment	iv
Appendix 3: Health Risk Information – Fact Sheet	v

DEFINITIONS

“owner” means a person who owns a personal service establishment or tanning facility and includes a person who operates a personal services establishment or a tanning facility.

“personal services” means a service intended to permanently or semi-permanently alter the body for cultural, artistic or expressive purpose including tanning,...

“tanning equipment” means ultraviolet or other lamps intended to induce skin tanning through the irradiation of a part of the living human body with ultraviolet radiation and equipment containing lamps, and includes ballasts, starters, reflectors, acrylic shields, timers and airflow cooling systems.

“tanning facility” means a location, place, area, structure or establishment that provides customers with access to tanning equipment in exchange for compensation.

INTRODUCTION

Artificial tanning at tanning facilities exposes people to high doses of ultraviolet radiation (UVR) and has been associated with a significant increase in the risk of melanoma skin cancer.

Tanning beds fall into the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) highest cancer risk category – group 1 – “carcinogenic to humans”. The association between indoor tanning facility use and melanoma risk is consistent with the knowledge that melanoma is caused by ultraviolet radiation. Exposure to ultraviolet in young people has been established as an important contributing factor for melanoma risk in adults.

In addition to increased risk of skin cancer, UVR exposure plays a role in premature aging, the development of cataracts, and the suppression of the immune system.

These Standards have been developed to ensure that owners and employees of tanning facilities prevent UVR exposure to young people. They help interpret and clarify the intent of the **Personal Services Act** and the **Personal Services Regulations** for owners and employees and guide Environmental Health Officers during inspection of tanning facilities.

Owners of tanning facilities shall also ensure that they are in compliance with all other applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws. Specifically, tanning facilities must meet the requirements of tanning equipment provisions of the **Radiation Emitting Devices Regulations (Canada)** and obtain a business licence and/or approval to operate from the appropriate local municipal authority.

LEGISLATION

The **Personal Service Act** and the **Personal Services Regulations** can be viewed at:

<https://www.assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/p07-2.htm>

<https://www.assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc140004.htm>

The **Radiation Emitting Devices Regulations (Canada)** can be viewed at:

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/Regulations/C.R.C., c. 1370/page-1.html>

PROHIBITION

The **Personal Services Act** states that an owner or employee of a tanning facility shall not offer or provide tanning services to a person who is under the age of 19 years.

Parental/guardian consent or informed consent of the person is not a means whereby persons under the age of 19 years can be permitted to be provided UVR tanning services.

An owner or employee of a tanning facility shall require a person appearing to be under 19 years of age to provide proof of age.

Government-issued photo identification with date of birth must be used to determine a young person's age. Acceptable proof of age identification includes:

- A valid driver's licence or identification card issued by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- A valid Canadian passport.
- Certification of Canadian citizenship issued by the Government of Canada.
- A Canadian Armed Forces identification card.
- Other similar forms of identification issued by a federal, provincial or foreign government.

Owners and employees must not accept a form of identification that appears to have been tampered with or altered.

REGISTRATION

To operate, owners of tanning facilities must register their facility with Digital Government and Service NL (DGSNL). The registration form is available at the DGSNL website at:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/files/licenses-env-health-pdf-personal-services-form.pdf>

Forms may be submitted to a DGSNL regional office:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/departement/contact/#locations>

INSPECTION

Tanning facilities will be inspected regularly by Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) with DGSNL to ensure compliance with the **Personal Service Act**, the **Personal Services Regulations** and these Standards.

EHOs have the authority under the **Personal Services Act** to enter any premises and issue orders where non-compliance is observed.

The penalties for failing to comply with the **Personal Services Act** and the **Personal Services Regulations** are, for a first offense:

- \$50 for a person who is not the owner of the tanning facility; and
- \$500 for a person who is the owner of the tanning facility.

Penalties increase for second and third offences.

HEALTH WARNING SIGNS

Point of Sale Signage:

A sign warning clients about the harmful effects of UVR exposure from tanning equipment must be posted within one metre of every cash register or sales counter in clear public view of clients prior to purchasing tanning services. The sign must contain the following health risk information:

- Exposure to UV light in tanning beds can cause skin cancer, serious injury and premature aging.
- Fair-skinned people and others who burn easily are at higher risk.
- Certain medical conditions, medications, cosmetics and lotions increase sensitivity to UV tanning equipment and can lead to serious burns and injury.
- It is illegal for persons under 19 to access UV tanning equipment in this facility.

The sign must be readily legible with minimum dimensions of 216 mm by 279 mm with black lettering on a white background or white lettering on a black background.

The point of sale sign to be posted is attached as Appendix 1.

Tanning Equipment Signage:

A tanning equipment sign must be placed within one metre of each tanning bed and be clearly visible to clients.

The sign must contain the following health risk information:

- Exposure to UV light in this tanning bed can cause skin cancer and premature aging.
- Repeated exposure increases your risk of developing skin cancer.
- Some medical conditions, medications, cosmetics and lotions increase the risk of burns and serious injury.
- It is illegal for persons under 19 to access this tanning bed in this facility.

The sign must be readily legible with minimum dimensions of 216 mm by 279 mm with black lettering on a white background or white lettering on a black background.

The tanning equipment sign to be posted is attached as Appendix 2.

HEALTH RISK INFORMATION

Prior to providing tanning services to a client, the owner or employee must provide tanning health risk information to their clients. This information is to be made available as follows:

- By posting the information and informing clients where the information is posted;
- By displaying the information and informing clients where the information is displayed;
- or
- By having the information printed and directly handing a copy of the information to the client.

The health risk information to be provided is attached as Appendix 3.

PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR

Protective eyewear must be made available for clients for use while tanning.

The protective eyewear available for use by tanning facility clients must meet the special transmittance requirements of the **Radiation Emitting Devices Regulations (Canada)**.

TANNING BED TIMERS

Tanning beds must not be able to be programmed by the client. The timing of tanning sessions must be done remotely by the owner or employees of the tanning facility and beds must automatically shut off upon the completion of the timed session.

SELF-SERVICE TANNING BEDS

Self-service, including coin operated, tanning beds are prohibited in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Appendix 1
Point of Sale Signage

WARNING

Exposure to UV light in tanning beds can cause skin cancer, serious injury and premature aging.

Fair-skinned people and others who burn easily are at higher risk.

Certain medical conditions, medications, cosmetics and lotions increase sensitivity to UV tanning equipment and can lead to serious burns and injury.

It is illegal for persons under 19 to access UV tanning equipment in this facility.

WARNING

Exposure to UV light in this tanning bed can cause skin cancer and premature aging.

Repeated exposure increases your risk of developing skin cancer.

Some medical conditions, medications, cosmetics and lotions increase the risk of burns and serious injury.

It is illegal for persons under 19 to access this tanning bed in this facility.



Tanning Health Risk Information

Artificial tanning at tanning facilities exposes people to high doses of ultraviolet radiation (UVR) and has been associated with a significant increase in the risk of melanoma skin cancer.

Tanning beds fall into the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) highest cancer risk category – group 1 – 'carcinogenic to humans'. The association between indoor tanning facility use and melanoma skin cancer risk is consistent with the knowledge that melanoma is caused by exposure to ultraviolet radiation. Exposure to ultraviolet radiation in young people has been established as an important contributing factor for melanoma risk in adults.

Before using a tanning bed, consider the following:

- Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in Canada, occurring more frequently among younger individuals. Skin cancer can be fatal, and the risk of developing skin cancer increases with a history of sunburn and as a total UV radiation exposure increases.
- Sunburn is the inflammation of the skin due to excess exposure to UV radiation; redness and pain may develop almost immediately in severe cases, or within 24 hours in milder cases.
- Repeated exposure to ultraviolet radiation can cause premature aging characterized by wrinkling, dryness and fragility.
- Use protective eyewear while tanning to prevent burns and long-term injury to the eyes.
- Intentional exposure to the sun or a tanning unit should be avoided for 48 hours after exposure to ultraviolet radiation from a tanning unit.