

Restrictions on pre 16 learning within Hair and Beauty Qualifications



INTRODUCTION

One of the biggest changes in the provision for pre-16 learners is that linked to the use of permanent hair colour, following an EU Directive that came into force on 1 November 2012. The new Directive amended an existing one concerning cosmetic products numbered 76/768/EEC. It sets conditions on maximum concentration limits of two chemicals (HC Orange No 2 and 2-hydroxyethylamino-5-nitroanisole) used in hair colours, so they are specifically regulated. In addition, it sets restrictions on how the product is to be used and stored, and the warnings that must appear on labels concerning the risk of allergic reactions.

In particular, it requires wording to be used on the labels that include the phrase “This product is not intended for use on persons under the age of 16”. The product labels should also state that an allergy test must be performed 48 hours before each use of the product. It is the manufacturers’ responsibility to ensure products contain the right concentration and correct labelling of products containing these two chemicals. Products not labelled accordingly have been prohibited from sale since 1 November 2012. Manufacturers were given a year, from November 2011, to change their products/labelling accordingly.

The aim of these changes is to lower the risk of sensitisation to permanent hair colours; the younger that a person starts to use permanent hair colour, the higher the probability that they may develop allergies to these products. A study carried out in Denmark in 2006, which carried great influence in the context of this EU Directive, showed that there had been a simultaneous change in the sensitisation of their control group (children) with the increasing use of permanent hair colours in 12-15 year olds.

These allergies can range from itching, rashes, swelling and breathing difficulties and can be severe; with some people suffering from allergic reactions being hospitalised and receiving intensive care. There have also been two deaths reported in the UK, linked to severe allergic reactions to hair dyes, although neither case was proven that chemicals in the dyes were to blame entirely. It seems one lady was pre-disposed five years earlier, to the chemical paraphenylenediamine (PPD), through the application of a black henna tattoo whilst abroad. The presence of PPD in the black henna, often at very high, uncontrolled levels, led to the sensitisation in the future to PPD, when subsequently exposed to it again – in her regular permanent hair colouring product. PPD is used, quite safely and legally, in permanent hair colours, as clear instructions for use and the need for an allergy test are given and, in addition to this, the maximum level of PPD is controlled by law.

“This product is not intended for use on persons under the age of 16”

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Fact Sheet:

Restrictions on pre 16 learning within Hair and Beauty Qualifications

Whilst it is not illegal to use permanent hair colours on persons younger than 16 years old, it is certainly not best practice to do so:

- Habia, as the Standards Setting Body for the industry, have issued a statement to explain the restrictions on the use of permanent hair colours on under 16s
- product manufacturers are stating the restrictions on their use on their external packaging
- Awarding Organisations are placing the restrictions within their qualifications
- Training Providers are following these qualification specifications within their training programmes
- Trade associations are campaigning for the restrictions on applying permanent hair colour to under 16s in commercial salons, to also apply to the products sold through retailers
- insurance companies are acutely aware of the risks involved in the use of permanent hair colour, particularly on under 16s, and you may find yourself open to claims if you were to carry out such services on these clients
- lawyers are reporting that there has been a sharp increase, of late, in the number of cases relating to the use of permanent hair colour.

In line with the EU Directive and to offer the safest training environment for pre-16 learners, the following restrictions for each of the industries have been agreed. All Awarding Organisations have built in and advise these restrictions within their qualifications that are aimed at pre-16 learners.

Specific Industry restrictions

Industry	Restrictions
Hairdressing/barbering/African type hair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting hair with implements such as scissors, clippers and attachments • Shaving skin with implements such as blades and razors • Using chemicals such as quasi, permanent hair colouring, permanent waving, bleach, lighteners, relaxing and chemical straightening • Completing skin tests
Nails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp implements such as knives, blades and nail cutters • Nail enhancements such as acrylics, powders, acetone, glues and resins
Beauty Therapy and Spa Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aromatherapy oils • Chemicals such as eyelash tint, eyelash perm lotion and individual lash adhesives • Instruments such as eyelash curlers, automatic tweezers, microlances and ear piercing equipment • Epilation – laser, needles • Depilatories such as waxing, bleaching and cream • Completing skin test • Thermal auricular candles • Facial and body electrotherapy equipment • Water purification chemicals



Further definitions surrounding restrictions

Client Contact

Learners are restricted regarding 'touching' certain areas of the body; suitable areas include:

- head, neck and shoulders to the clavicle and scapula
- lower arms and hands
- lower legs and feet

Training and assessments may be carried out on live models and/or artificial body parts designed for professional use as specified by the Awarding Organisation for the particular preparation for work qualification being undertaken.

Testing

Skin Test – chemicals and peroxides used to perform a test to check for skin reaction (post 16 learners only)

Sensitivity Test – tactile, heat and cold (suitable for learners of all age groups).



About Habia....

Habia is recognised by Government as the Standards Setting Body for the hair and beauty industries and plays an essential role in maintaining and improving professionalism within them. Part of the SkillsActive group, the Sector Skills Council for Active Leisure, Learning and Well-being, allows the hair and beauty industry more opportunities and access to a wealth of experience and resources for the sector.

Through its drive to raise standards that are held in high regard and respected worldwide, Habia provide a solid benchmark for education and industry and a voice to Government. Habia works closely with education and the industry providing up to date information on education, qualifications and skills and, as a not for profit organisation, Habia invests all surplus revenue back into funding projects that will benefit the hair and beauty industries.

Habia's responsibilities and duties are many and varied; developing the Standards that form the basis of all UK recognised hair and beauty qualifications, the creation of Codes of Practice and Industry Guidelines, the creation of and supported by Government Register of Professional Beauty Therapists, advanced skills training and CPD opportunities to educators as well as additional skills and business related support to those working in industry.

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