

## Part 5: Pulsed light and laser treatment Minimum standards for all operators

All operators who provide pulsed light and/or laser treatment must comply with this section.

### Training and qualifications

- If you are operating a laser that is used to remove skin or treat tissue, you must have training in the safe use of lasers. This is based on AS/NZS 4173: 2018: Safe Use of Lasers and Intense Light Sources in Health Care.
- You must display your qualifications in a prominent position (i.e. on a wall).

### Precautions, consent and aftercare

Before you begin any pulsed light or laser treatment, you must:

- Let the customer know about the associated risks.
- Give your customer written advice about any precautions and procedures that might be required after the treatment.
- Cover any moles, lesions or skin abnormalities the customer has.

All customers must sign a consent form which will include medical history and skin type.

Do not perform pulsed light or laser treatment on anyone with a family history of melanoma.

Before treatment, do a patch test, or a trial exposure of a small area of representative skin and hair, to see how the customer might react to the full service.

You must have a test patch process that includes which areas to test, the pulsed light or laser settings, how long to wait to judge skin response, and how to spot adverse reactions.

### Record keeping

Keep records of the following:

- The customer consent form
- Date of procedure
- Type of service
- Location on the body of the service
- All equipment calibration and other maintenance.

Keep these records for 2 years and provide to council for inspection on request.

### Removal of lesions or moles

Only a registered health practitioner can remove lesions or moles.

### Medical consent

You must get written medical consent from a customer before removing hair from moles.

### Controlled area

You must have a 'controlled area' for the pulsed light or laser equipment. It must have:

- Clear and detailed safety rules describing how to use the area correctly, any hazards the operator or customer might be exposed to, who is authorised to use the equipment, and what to do in the event of an accident;
- No windows to prevent eye damage to anyone walking by;
- No reflective areas such as mirrors;
- Clear signs or warning lights showing when it is safe to enter, or when the laser/ intense pulsed light is on; and
- Suitable door locks or keypads.

**Protective eyewear**

Both customer and operator must wear suitable protective disposable or disinfected eyewear for laser treatment.

**Use of pulsed light equipment**

Make sure your laser and pulsed light equipment has been serviced and calibrated according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

You’ll need to provide evidence of this to council on request.

**Cleaning and disinfecting**

You must clean and disinfect all equipment that does not need to be sterile. Disinfect tools following the product-specific recommended contact time, to council’s satisfaction.

**Additional recommended best practice – recommended but not compulsory**

Operators should:

- seek medical instruction if skin cancers are detected;
- understand the importance of not treating pigmented lesions they are worried about;
- tell customers with such lesions to seek medical advice.
- wear masks when operating energy-based devices to protect yourself from exposure to laser plume.
- hold a current St John’s or Red Cross First Aid Workplace Certificate or equivalent.

You should have a copy of the manufacturer’s instructions of the pulsed light or laser equipment you use. You must understand:

- how to prepare the skin before treatment
- when the treatment should end
- what results are normal and expected and what isn’t
- how to give post care instructions specific to the treatment.

You should take before and after photos. You must store them following NZ privacy laws and with the customer’s permission.

You should be using a skin cooling system to protect the skin from thermal damage. This helps reduce client discomfort associated with pulsed light and laser treatments.

**Additional standards**

The following standards/regulations/guidelines are also important:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AS/ NZS 3130: 1995 “Australian and New Zealand Standard for approval and test specification – beauty therapy equipment” and any updates, additions, revisions or amendments to that standard;</li> <li>▪ AS/ NZS 3200.2.22: 1997 “Australian and New Zealand Standard for diagnostic and therapeutic laser equipment”. and any updates, additions, revisions or amendments to that standard;</li> <li>▪ Hairdressing and Beauty Industry Authority UK, “Safe Use of Lasers and Intense Pulsed Light Equipment 2003, and any updates, additions, revisions or amendments to that standard;</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AS/ NZS 4173: 2004 “Guide to the safe use of lasers in health care”. and any updates, additions, revisions or amendments to that standard;</li> <li>▪ Electricity (Safety) Regulations,</li> <li>▪ AS/ NZS 3760: 2010 “Australian and New Zealand Standard for in-service safety inspection and testing of electrical equipment”. The New Zealand Association of Registered Beauty Therapists does not recommend the use of Pulsed Light equipment that has not been inspected and tested annually. and any updates, additions, revisions or amendments to that standard;</li> </ul> |
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NOTE: This summary sheet is provided only for information and does not replace or supplement the Hutt City Council Bylaw Code of Practice.