

**HEALTH WARNING.....**  
**.....Hair Straightening Product—Hazardous to Your Health**

The following U.S. Department of Labor news release was recently forwarded to each state agency which regulates cosmetology professions. The Department of Labor also issued a “Hazard Alert...Hair Smoothing Products that could Release Formaldehyde” document.

This is a must read for each practitioner and salon owner. The website for the “Hazard Alert” is listed below and is available by checking the Board’s website at [www.kansas.gov/kboc](http://www.kansas.gov/kboc).

**Washington** – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration is issuing a hazard alert to hair salon owners and workers about potential formaldehyde exposure from working with some hair smoothing and straightening products.

The hazard alert, available on OSHA’s website at [http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/formaldehyde/hazard\\_alert.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/formaldehyde/hazard_alert.html), (also posted at the Board’s website, [www.kansas.gov/kboc](http://www.kansas.gov/kboc)) provides information about OSHA’s investigations, the health hazards of formaldehyde and how to protect people who are working with hair smoothing and straightening products.

Responding to complaints and referrals about possible exposure to formaldehyde, federal OSHA and many state occupational safety and health agencies are conducting investigations. Oregon’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Connecticut’s Department of Public Health, and agencies in several other states already have issued warnings.

Federal OSHA has found formaldehyde in the air when stylists used hair smoothing products, some of which do have formaldehyde listed on their labels or in material safety data sheets as required by law. During one investigation, the agency’s air tests showed formaldehyde at levels greater than OSHA’s limits for a salon, even though the product tested was labeled as formaldehyde-free. California’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration recently issued violations to an importer and distributor of smoothing products labeled formaldehyde-free for failing to list formaldehyde as a hazardous ingredient on the company’s product labels and in the material safety data sheets.

Formaldehyde presents a health hazard if workers are exposed. It can irritate the eyes and nose; cause allergic reactions of the skin, eyes and lungs; and is linked to nose and lung cancer.

OSHA requires manufacturers, importers and distributors of products that contain formaldehyde as a gas or in solution, or that can release formaldehyde during use, to include information about formaldehyde and its hazards on product labels and in the material safety data sheets that are sent to employers.

“Workers have the right to know the risks associated with the chemicals with which they work, and how to protect themselves,” said federal OSHA Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels. “Employers need to know these risks in order to ensure the safety and health of their employees.”

To eliminate potential worker exposure, OSHA recommends that salon owners use products that do not contain formaldehyde, methylene glycol, formalin, methylene oxide, paraform, formic aldehyde, methanal, oxomethane, oxymethylene or Chemical Abstract Service Number 50-00-0.

If a salon owner decides to continue using a formaldehyde-containing hair smoothing product, then he or she must follow OSHA’s formaldehyde standard. Important requirements of this standard include conducting air monitoring, installing ventilation where needed and training workers about formaldehyde, as well as providing protective equipment such as gloves, chemical splash goggles, face shields and chemical resistant aprons.

The material safety data sheet includes important information about what a product contains and how the ingredients can affect a worker’s health. Salon owners and other employers must have a material safety data sheet for any of the products they use that contain hazardous chemicals. They must also make the sheet available to stylists and other workers.

OSHA currently has a number of ongoing investigations at salons and of importers/distributors/manufacturers relating to hair smoothing and straightening products. Some citations have been issued.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA’s role is to ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.

**Brazilian Hair Straightening...The Board’s Review**

The above press release addresses the most recent hair trend for temporary straightening of hair.

Due to the number of inquiries regarding the process, the Board held public comment at its November meeting. You may wish to review the minutes of the meeting at the Board’s website, [www.kansas.gov/kboc](http://www.kansas.gov/kboc).

Please make certain all practitioners in your salon/facility are aware of OSHA’s issued Hazard Alert. Copy and provide this newsletter to each practitioner so they have the website address to access the “Hazard Alert.”

**Members of the Kansas Board of Cosmetology**

Allene Owen, Great Bend - Vice-Chair  
Darrell Ringler, Emporia  
Randy Rushing, Shawnee



Marie Plinsky, Topeka  
Chuck Householder, Kansas City  
Jerry E. Waltrip, Pittsburg

***Mission Statement***

The mission of the Kansas Board of Cosmetology is to protect the health and safety of the consuming public by licensing qualified individuals and enforcing high standards of practice.

### Coming Soon.....

To ensure the Board's responsibility is met to "protect the health and safety of the consuming public" the Board will soon post on its website a listing of disciplinary actions taken against licensees and individuals who have been found to be in violation of Kansas law and regulation.

The listing will be brief but will include the facility, practitioner or individual who was in violation of law and/or regulation. The disciplinary action initiated by the Board and the resolution of the disciplinary action will be included.

### Governor Appoints Charles "Chuck" Householder to the Board

In September 2010, Chuck Householder was appointed to the Kansas Board of Cosmetology to fill the body art vacancy. Mr. Householder is a tattoo artist who has been licensed since 2004.

### Interested in Being Appointed to the Board?

The Board's regulatory responsibility is to protect the health and safety of the consuming public and promote standards of professional practice. Members are appointed by the Governor for a three year term. The Board membership consists of:

- Two members who represent the general public;
- Three members who are licensed in the cosmetology professions (cosmetologist, nail technician, esthetician, electrologists);
- One member licensed as a cosmetic tattoo artist (permanent cosmetics artist), tattoo artist or body piercer;
- One member who is an owner and licensed operator of a tanning facility; and
- One member who is associated with the "day-to-day operation" of a licensed cosmetology school.

Should you be interested in serving as a Board member, please submit a cover letter and resume to:

Director of Appointments  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol, 300 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66612-1590



### Know the Difference Between Sanitizing and Disinfecting

In continued efforts to facilitate licensees' standards of practice, the Board is committed to including infection control information in each annual newsletter. The 2010 newsletter included a short review of the three levels of infection control:

1. sanitation;
2. disinfection; and
3. sterilization.

The U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration sets the national standards for infection control. Therefore, should you review another state's infection control standards, you will find them to be very similar, although the wording may vary.



**SANITIZERS** are used to reduce, but not necessarily eliminate, microorganisms from the inanimate environment to levels considered safe as determined by public health codes or regulations. The EPA defines sanitizing as "a reduction on microbial presence on a surface at 99.99%." This low level reduction can be achieved by pre-cleaning surfaces with a detergent.

**DISINFECTANTS** are used on hard inanimate surfaces and objects to destroy or irreversibly inactivate infectious fungi and bacteria but not necessarily their spores.

**STERILIZERS** are required by Kansas law and regulation for use by electrologists and body art practitioners. Sterilizers destroy or eliminate all forms of microbial life including fungi, viruses, and all forms of bacteria and their spores. Spores are considered to be the most difficult form of microorganism to destroy. Kansas requires the above-mentioned practitioners use an autoclave for sterilization processes.

### Disinfecting Process

To sanitize non-electrical tools/equipment wash with soapy water and rinse with clean water.

To disinfect, use a bleach solution or an EPA registered disinfectant with demonstrated bactericidal, virucidal, and fungicidal activity (three properties).

For proper dilution (dose) of the disinfectant follow the instructions listed on the manufacturer's label, also referred to as the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). The solution must remain in wet contact (emersion) for a full ten minutes or as directed by the MSDS.

Unless all criteria listed above are followed, complete disinfection cannot occur. Failure to disinfect completely may lead to disinfectant resistant microbial strains.

Store disinfected instruments in a clean, enclosed cabinet or covered container reserved for disinfected instruments only.



### Disinfecting When a Blood Spill Occurs

To sanitize and disinfect equipment/tools when a blood spill has occurred, immediately clean the instrument with soap/detergent and water. Rinse with clean water.

Fully immerse non-electrical tools/equipment in EPA registered disinfectant with virucidal, fungicidal, bactericidal, and tuberculo-cidal activity (four properties). Follow the MSDS for proper dilution and immersion time.

Rinse and store disinfected instruments in a clean, enclosed cabinet or covered container reserved for disinfected instruments only.

### Have You Had a Recent Change of Address?

If so, complete the change of address form found at the Board website and submit to the Board with a copy of your driver's license which lists your updated address.

**Please reproduce and distribute this newsletter as you wish. We encourage salon owners to post the newsletter so practitioners may review the information contained in this issue.**

**To find back issues of the newsletter visit our website at [www.kansas.gov/kboc](http://www.kansas.gov/kboc) and click on the Annual Newsletters link.**

#### **Board Staff**

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LeAnna Hickman	Practitioner Licensure & Exams
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\*Licensed Cosmetologists