

## Radiation Safety Act 1999:

# Information for Training Providers: Use of Laser Apparatus for Cosmetic Purposes

December 2023

This information details the matters that may be considered by the Chief Executive when deciding whether to approve training in the use of laser apparatus for cosmetic purposes, as provided for by s83(1)(b) of the Radiation Safety Regulation 2021.

Approved training in the use of laser apparatus for cosmetic purposes can be undertaken without the trainees having to obtain a licence under the *Radiation Safety Act 1999*. Only training that is listed on the department's website as being approved by the Chief Executive is approved training.

If training in the use of laser apparatus for cosmetic purposes has not been approved by the Chief Executive and has not been explicitly listed on the department's website, its trainees are required to hold an appropriate 'trainee' use licence under the *Radiation Safety Act 1999* if the training includes a practical element.

Note: 'cosmetic purposes' means one or more of the following:

- hair reduction
- skin rejuvenation (including superficial pigmentation adjustment)
- superficial capillary reduction
- tattoo removal

## A. Background

Section 13 of the *Radiation Safety Act 1999* requires that a person must not use a radiation source, unless the person is allowed to use it under a use licence. However, the Act also provides for exemptions from the requirement to hold a use licence in certain circumstances. One of these circumstances, provided for by s83(1)(b) of the Radiation Safety Regulation 2021, is when a trainee is undergoing *approved training* in the use of laser apparatus for cosmetic purposes.

Approved training is training that has been approved by the Chief Executive and published on the department's website. For training by a training provider to be approved, the department will need to be satisfied that:

- (a) the training requires students to undertake practical and theoretical training to complete the course of study
- (b) the practical training provided by the educational institution or entity is of an acceptable standard
- (c) the practical training is conducted in the presence and under the personal supervision of a person who is licensed to use the laser apparatus to carry out the cosmetic procedures
- (d) the theoretical training provided by the educational institution or entity is of an acceptable standard; and
- (e) the educational institution or entity assesses –
  - i. the competency of students on completion of the practical training; and
  - ii. the theoretical components of the training provided in the course of study.

## B. Consideration of Training

To determine whether or not the training provided by a training provider may be approved, and listed on the department's website, consideration is given to:

- the type of training provider and its governance arrangements
- details of the theoretical training provided
- details of how the practical training is offered
- how competency is measured
- the ability, experience and competency of the licensed trainers and assessors
- how trainers or assessors measure their own performance as well as that of the trainees
- how trainers or assessors deal with a non-performer; and
- how frequently the training provider re-assesses its training.

It is expected that any training relating to the provision of cosmetic services using laser apparatus would cover information, as applicable, about:

- the apparatus itself and the associated radiation risks and hazards
- how to ascertain the optimal operating parameters of the apparatus for each individual client and how to assess the results for each client
- the safety measures to be put in place to minimise the risks to both the client and the apparatus operator
- the tools that may be used to minimise the risks to the client (e.g. use of a skin melanin meter); and how to recognise an incident and what to do if an incident occurs.

As a minimum, it is expected that all laser safety training would cover:

- (a) theory relevant to the type of cosmetic procedure
- (b) the topics outlined in attachment 1 of AS/NZS 4173:2018 *Safe use of lasers and intense light sources in health care*; and
- (c) a course of study that covers biosafety, infection prevention and control before, during, and after treatment care, as well as how to detect and manage burns and adverse effects.

## C. Information to be Submitted

To enable relevant assessments to be made, the training provider will need to provide Chief Executive with the information detailed in Attachment 1.

The submission is to be posted to:

Chief Executive  
c/- Radiation Health Unit  
PO Box 2368  
FORTITUDE VALLEY BC QLD 4006

## D. Approval of Training

If the training is approved by the Chief Executive, a Statement of Approval will be provided. This Statement will include:

1. the name, contact details and a brief description of the training provider
2. the name of the training approved

3. the scope of the training approved (i.e. type of cosmetic procedure in which the students will be trained)
4. a brief description of the training approved
5. the name of the qualification that is awarded on successful completion of the training
6. the review date of Chief Executive's approval; and
7. the unique number assigned to the training approval by the Chief Executive.

The purpose of the review mentioned in item 6. above is to consider the changes that may have occurred since the last review as well as an assessment of whether other changes need to be made. The review date for each training provider will be set at the time of approval and will typically be of the order of 3 to 5 years after the approval date.

At the time of review, the training provider will be expected to provide details of any changes in the information submitted to support the initial application.

**NOTE 1:**

As provided for by s83(3) of the Radiation Safety Regulation 2021, elements 1 to 5 for each approved entity or institution will be published on the department's website.

**NOTE 2:**

Only trainees using laser apparatus while undertaking approved training cited on the department's website are allowed to use laser apparatus without having to hold a use licence.

## Information to be Provided by the Training Provider

1. Details of the type of training provider. That is:
  - (a) a facility registered by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (e.g. University, College of TAFE, or Private College);
  - (b) a registered training organisation (i.e. an organisation approved and registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority to deliver a vocational education training course); or
  - (c) other (e.g. a provider of limited training to small groups or one-on-one training).

For training providers whose type is listed as 1(a) above, the following must be provided:

- i. details of the scope of registration of the facility and details of any conditions of registration.

For training providers whose type is listed as 1(b) above, the following must be provided:

- i. details of the scope of registration of the organisation and details of any conditions of registration; and
- ii. evidence showing that the principal business conducted by the registered training organisation is training and not another business such as the provision of cosmetic services or sales of equipment or franchises.

For applicants whose type is listed as 1(c) above, the following must be provided:

- i. evidence showing that the principal business conducted by the provider is training and not another business such as the provision of cosmetic services or sales of equipment or franchises.

2. Details of the scope of the training (i.e. type of cosmetic procedure in which the students are to be trained)
3. Details of the practical training environment that will be provided to educate students, including the types of contemporary laser apparatus and associate facilities for use by students and details of how, and under what arrangements, the students will be provided with sufficient human subjects to practice on. These arrangements must include details of how the informed consent of each person being irradiated (the human subject) by a student is ensured and how the human subjects will be encouraged to seek medical advice prior to and during the course of their cosmetic procedures.
4. Details of the amount of training to be provided, the records to be kept, and of how evidence of satisfactorily completed training, including both the theoretical and practical aspects, will be provided to the student by the training provider. This evidence must include the name of the training for which the student is seeking to be certified as competent, details of the component areas of study undertaken, an unambiguous statement of competency, the date on which the certification was awarded, the name of the person certified as being competent, the name of the training provider, the name of the signatory acting on behalf of the course provider; and the unique training approval number issued by the Chief Executive.
5. Details of:
  - any prior training required by students; and
  - how students will be expected to pay for their training.

6. Details about the theoretical training conducted, including:

- for each training course, a complete course outline detailing the mandatory and optional elements of each course and the course objective
- complete training material or documentation
- details of the training delivery method
- details of how the training provider will support students during the theoretical training component
- details of how an assessment of the students' knowledge is made
- the criteria for an assessment as 'competent' and the details of the person making that assessment; and
- the process if a student fails an assessment.

7. Details about the practical training, including:

- details of the practical environment, its location, and the ownership and maintenance of the radiation-producing equipment
- the timeframe the training provider expects would be needed for a student to acquire the necessary level of skill to reach an acceptable competence level for each type of cosmetic procedure
- details of how students are managed so that they are in the presence and under the personal supervision of an appropriately licensed person
- details of the number of human subjects the training provider expects to be irradiated in each particular session, the number of students and the number of trainers (e.g. class sizes, booking numbers)
- details of how it will be ensured that, for each type of cosmetic procedure, students will be provided access to human subjects with a variety of skin types and different stages of a particular treatment program (e.g. from start to finish for multi-visit treatments)
- the criteria the students need to satisfy before they commence the practical training
- details of training records that are kept for each student, including the numbers and descriptions of the cosmetic procedures undertaken, the skin types of the human subjects, the age of the human subjects, the name of the trainer who supervised each training session, the number of hours of practical training undertaken and an assessment and commentary on the competency of each of the cosmetic procedures undertaken
- details on the criteria used by the trainer to determine if the procedure undertaken is as expected, and how feedback is provided to the student
- the criteria for an assessment as 'competent' and the details of the person making that assessment; and
- the process if a student fails an assessment.

8. The framework to ensure that the trainers have the technical capability, including:

- details of the trainers delivering the theoretical training, specified by qualification and experience; and
- details of the trainers delivering the practical training, specified by qualification and experience, and the details of the use licences that must be held by the trainers.

9. Details of the support provided to students by the training provider after completion of the students' studies.