



FACT SHEET

for

Cosmetic use of Lasers

This fact sheet is relevant for persons needing to use lasers for cosmetic purposes in Western Australia. The term “laser” used in this document refers to high powered lasers prescribed under the Radiation Safety Act 1975 as Class 3B and Class 4 lasers, as classified by *AS 2211.1 Safety of laser products*. Intense Pulsed Light is currently not regulated under the Radiation Safety Act.

Registration of Lasers and Premises

The premises and all Class 3B or Class 4 lasers in use or storage must be registered under the Radiation Safety Act.

For use of lasers by non-medical practitioners for hair removal, superficial cosmetic and tattoo removal procedures a medical practitioner will be required to be involved with setting up the protocols and procedures relating to cosmetic laser treatments. For tattoo removal, confirmation must also be provided that a registered medical practitioner is available to provide medical support to the person undertaking the laser tattoo removal procedures.

For superficial cosmetic and tattoo removal procedures, prior to using lasers for these procedures written correspondence must be provided from a medical practitioner confirming the patient has undergone a skin check in person with the medical practitioner prior to each course of new treatment.

Registration application forms are available from the *Forms & Fact Sheets* section of the Radiological Council website.

Licensing for Medical Practitioners

Medical practitioners who hold a relevant licence under the Radiation Safety Act, or medical practitioners working under the direction and personal supervision of a licensee, may operate lasers for medical purposes. Personal supervision requires the licensee to be present on the registered premises.

To be eligible for a licence, medical practitioners must be registered as such with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and must have attended a laser safety course recognised by the Radiological Council.

Licensing for Nurses

Nurses who hold a relevant *exemption from licence* under the Radiation Safety Act, or nurses working under the direction and personal supervision of a licensee, may operate lasers for medical or cosmetic purposes within their professional registration and scope of practice. Personal supervision requires the licensee to be present on the registered premises. An exemption from licence still requires an application to the Radiological Council and an exemption certificate to be issued.

To be eligible for an exemption from licence, nurses must be registered as Division 1 Nurses with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and must have attended a laser safety course recognised by the Radiological Council.

Licensing for Other Practitioners using Cosmetic Lasers

Persons who are not medical practitioners or nurses may be able to use lasers for cosmetic procedures with a current *exemption from licence*. An exemption from licence still requires an application to the Radiological Council and an exemption certificate to be issued.

There are three types of exemptions from licence issued specifically for cosmetic use of lasers, the prerequisites are:

Hair Removal

- have attended a laser safety course recognised by the Radiological Council;
- have undertaken minimum 25 hours practical training under the immediate personal supervision of a WA licensee for the use of lasers for hair removal.

Superficial Cosmetic Procedures

Non-ablative pigment and vascular treatments relating to age, rosacea and cherry angiomas. This excludes congenital and acquired vascular anomalies and pigmented birthmarks.

- have attended a laser safety course recognised by the Radiological Council;
- have undertaken minimum 100 hours practical training under the immediate personal supervision of a WA licensee as follows:
 - Minimum 50 hours practical training for pigment treatments
 - Minimum 50 hours practical training for vascular treatments

For hair removal and superficial cosmetic purposes applicants may be able to meet all of the above criteria by completing a recognised dermal science course.

Tattoo Removal

- have attended a laser safety course recognised by the Radiological Council;
- have attended a tattoo removal course;
- have undertaken minimum 100 hours practical training under the immediate personal supervision of a WA licensee. Of these 100 required hours, at least 50 must be in tattoo removal procedures; supervised practical hours obtained in the other above laser cosmetic procedures may be used to for the remaining hours.

Note: Immediate personal supervision requires the licensee to be present and maintain direct and continuous supervision of any person under the licensee's direction.

To demonstrate practical experience in accordance with these requirements, evidence of the minimum total practical hours must be provided (e.g. logbook of treatments). In

addition, the supervising licensee must provide written advice that the trainee has undertaken practical training in both consultation and beam-on aspects of the specified treatments and is competent in each aspect. Licensees supervising practical training will be held responsible for ensuring that the competence of trainees is accurately reported to the Council.

Recognition of Interstate Experience

Applicants who hold a Queensland or Tasmanian licence to use lasers for cosmetic purposes, may use this to gain a West Australian licence for the equivalent purpose. For applicants who do not hold a Queensland or Tasmanian licence, but who have logbook hours and competency sign-off from a Queensland or Tasmanian cosmetic laser licence holder, this documentation may also be used for a WA licence application (in lieu of the same sign-off by a WA licensee).

Applicants with other interstate experience will still need to complete a recognised laser safety course and provide evidence demonstrating suitable interstate experience in the use of lasers for hair removal, superficial cosmetic procedures or tattoo removal. Suggested documents to provide are a CV and a letter from a prior employer confirming experience and competency. These applications are considered on a case by case basis and extra documentation or further training may be required before an exemption from licence can be granted.

Applications for a Licence or Exemption from Licence

Application forms are available under *Forms* on the Radiological Council website. Persons applying for either a licence or an *exemption from licence* will need to complete the initial application for licence (LX Form) and will need to include evidence of meeting the above prerequisites.

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