

SC9: NON SURGICAL LASERS / IPLS/ LIGHT

DEFINITIONS

The conditions in this part refer specifically to Class 3B lasers, Class 4 lasers and Intense Light Source systems (ILS) used for non-surgical cosmetic procedures.

Laser

This is an acronym of Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation. In the beauty industry lasers are generally used for non-invasive cosmetic treatments, such as removal of; hair, tattoos, birthmarks, acne scarring, and other blemishes, from the skin. The mode of emission of the radiation can be continuous, wave, or pulsed.

Class 3B lasers

Radiation in this class is likely to be dangerous, maximum output into the eye must not exceed 500mW. The radiation can be hazardous to the eye or skin but viewing of diffuse reflection is safe.

Class 4 laser

Highest class of laser radiation, diffuse reflection is also hazardous. If used incorrectly it can cause serious skin and eye injuries and is capable of setting fire to material.

Intense Light Systems (ILS)/ Intense Pulsed Light (IPL)

Intense light systems are generally treated as class 4 lasers. Intense Pulsed light (IPL) systems fall into this category and are the intense light system generally used for non-invasive cosmetic treatments found in the beauty industry. IPL is pulsed or shuttered emission which gives tissues time to cool between pulses.

Laser Protection Advisor - LPA

For licensing purposes an initial visit is required by an LPA prior to operation. The LPA is the person providing expert advice on laser/IPL safety. Only certified LPAs can be employed for this purpose. Names of certified LPA's can only be found at <http://www.rpa2000.org.uk/list-of-certificate-holders/> or at <https://laserprotectionadviser.com/members-lpas/>

Local Rules

The Local Rules are produced by the LPA and are a set of rules specific to each installation, detailing safe working practice and day-to-day safety management.

Laser Protection Supervisor – LPS

The LPS is usually an employee of the business and is responsible for; supervising the work of all laser/IPL authorised users, the safety and security of all laser/IPL, ensuring all users are appropriately trained to operate the laser/IPL, and that the Local Rules document is followed on a day-to-day basis.

Authorised User

The Authorised user is the individual who operates the laser/IPL equipment to treat clients.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I. AUTHORISED USERS

(a) Only suitably qualified therapists may operate and provide laser or IPL treatments. Qualifications must be from an awarding organisation regulated by Ofqual (<https://www.gov.uk/find-a-regulated-qualification>) or be from an approved training provider as agreed by the Council in writing.

(b) In line with Health Education England recommendations authorised users of laser/IPL should be trained to at least Level 4 training covering use of lasers and have the Core of Knowledge Certificate. Therapists with Level 3 training and Core of Knowledge can continue to offer treatment where there is sufficient evidence of Continued Professional Development/ training. For tattoo removal with a laser Level 5 training is required.

2. AGE RESTRICTIONS

No one under the age of 16 will be permitted to have treatments without a parent or guardian being present and signing the consent form.

3. CLIENT CONSULTATION

A relevant client consultation must be carried out prior to any treatment. This must include a thorough medical history in relation to the treatment being requested and full explanation of any possible contra-indications.

4. VISUAL ASSESSMENT

An assessment of the condition of the area to be treated must be carried out prior to commencing treatment. Where necessary notes/diagrams should be made regarding conditions, areas not to be treated. Treatments must not be carried out on or within 10cms of an infected area of skin, a rash, cut, broken skin or other wound.

5. AUTHORISED USER REGISTER

A register/list must be kept of all personnel authorised to operate laser/IPL equipment.

6. RECORD KEEPING

Records must be kept for every client. The records must include details of medical history checks and steps taken to verify the age of the client including their date of birth and the type of identification provided (where appropriate). The record must be signed by the client/parent/guardian (as appropriate) as a declaration of agreement to proceeding with the treatment following the explanation of any associated risks.

A treatment register must be completed every time the laser/IPL is operated, including the following information:

- the name of the person treated;
- the date and time of treatment;
- the name and signature of the laser/IPL operator;
- the nature of the laser/IPL treatment given
- the treatment parameters
- any accidents or adverse effects.

Records may be stored on paper or electronically. Records must be made available upon request from an Authorised Officer of the Council, such records must be produced within 3 days of any such request.

7. PERSONAL HYGIENE

Persons carrying out treatments must ensure that:-

- their hands are kept clean and washed immediately prior to carrying out a treatment,
- they maintain a high degree of personal cleanliness and wear suitable, clean and appropriate protective clothing,
- they do not smoke or consume food or drink during the course of a treatment.

Persons shall not administer treatments whilst afflicted by either a known or suspected ailment or being a carrier of a disease likely to be transmitted during treatment.

Persons carrying out treatments shall ensure that any open sores, cuts, boils, broken skin or other open wounds are effectively covered with waterproof impermeable dressings. If such cuts are on the hands gloves shall be worn over the waterproof dressings.

8. INFECTION CONTROL

In addition to the cleaning and sterilisation requirements set out in Part II of the General Licence Conditions for all special treatment premises:-

- (a) Couches, tables and trolleys must be wiped with a suitable disinfectant between clients. If towels are used a clean towel must be used for each client.
- (b) Couch roll must be changed between clients.
- (c) Where hair needs to be removed disposable razors must be used and thrown away after each client.

9. LASER/ IPL TREATMENT PROTOCOL DOCUMENT

- (a) The licence holder must ensure that a “treatment protocol” document is produced and signed by an Expert Medical Practitioner (EMP) in relation to the licence holder’s equipment.
- (b) The treatment protocol should be signed and dated by the EMP to confirm authorisation, should be reviewed annually and include a projected date for review. The treatment protocol must be retained onsite.
- (c) The treatment protocol sets out the necessary pre-treatment checks and tests, the manner in which the laser/IPL is to be applied, the acceptable variations in the settings used, and when to abort a treatment.
- (d) A separate treatment protocol should be in place for each laser/IPL in use at the licensed premises.
- (e) The treatment protocol must include the following:
 - name and technical specifications of the equipment
 - contraindications
 - treatment technique – general
 - treatment technique – hair reduction
 - client consent prior to treatment - including checking skin type and pigmentation
 - cleanliness and infection control
 - pre-treatment tests and pre-treatment instructions
 - post-treatment care
 - recognition of treatment-related problems
 - list of photo sensitisers
 - emergency procedures
 - permitted variation on machine variables
 - procedure in the event of equipment failure
 - written aftercare advice must be provided after the first treatment

10. LASER/ IPL LOCAL RULES

(a) The Licence holder shall initially employ the services of a certificated Laser Protection Advisor (LPA) to produce local rules. A copy of the LPA’s certificate and a copy of a contract between the licenced premise and the LPA must be available onsite. In cases where a device and room has been previously assessed the Licence Holder must contact the LPA who carried out the assessments to get copies of these documents. (see Appendix I)

(b) A copy of the last LPA audit report must be available onsite for review by the Authorised Officer. If a copy is not available the Licence Holder must contact the LPA who wrote the Local Rules and request a copy of the last audit or a new audit.

(d) After the initial inspection if there are no significant changes to the premises i.e. change of room, change of Laser/IPL equipment, treatments etc, then the initial assessments will stand and therefore no further action is required.

(e) It will be at your discretion and consideration as to whether you wish to continue to engage the services of your LPA. If however there are any significant changes in relation to the Laser/IPL operations at the premises, i.e. change of room, change of Laser/IPL equipment, or change in any additional treatments offered, then you will require a further inspection from your LPA to re-assess and document these changes.

(f) Changes in relation to the laser user(s) would not require a new assessment just an update in your user register with copies of their qualifications and training.

(g) Both the Local Rules and the Treatment Protocol must be available for reference, next to each machine.

11. APPLICATION OF LOCAL RULES

(a) The laser/IPL must only be used in accordance with the local rules.

(b) Authorised Persons must sign statements that they have read and understood the local rules. These statements must be available onsite for inspection by an Authorised Officer at all times.

12. LASER/IPL CONTROLLED AREA

(a) The area around working lasers/IPL shall be controlled to protect other persons while treatment is in progress. The controlled area shall be clearly defined and not used for other purposes.

(b) A suitable safety warning sign ('Eye Protection' and 'Controlled Area') or light entry system which complies with current British Standards shall be in place on the door of the controlled area.

(c) All lasers/IPL shall comply with current standards (BS EN 60601-2-22 for medical lasers and BS 60601-2-57 and shall display labels identifying them, their wavelength or range of wavelengths and the maximum output power of the radiation emitted. The labels shall be clearly visible on the front or side of the machine.

(d) The door to the controlled area shall be fitted with a suitable device which can be operated from the outside in an emergency

(e) Any windows in the controlled area shall be fitted with opaque blinds approved by the LPA.

(f) The controlled areas shall be kept clear of clutter, mirrors shall be avoided and jewellery shall not be worn.

(g) Surfaces within the controlled area shall be of a matt or eggshell Finish.

(h) Protective eyewear shall be worn by everyone within the controlled area whenever there is a risk of exposure to laser/IPL. All protective eyewear shall be marked with the wavelength range and protection offered as detailed in the local rules document. They shall be in a clean serviceable condition.

- (i) No more than one laser/IPL shall be switched on during the client treatment.
- (j) When the laser/IPL is in operation the number of persons in the room shall be kept to a minimum.
- (k) The laser protection supervisor shall ensure that the key to any laser/IPL equipment is kept in a secure and separate area when not in use and that only authorised users have access to the key.
- (l) Lasers/IPL shall be serviced annually and a record kept of servicing and repairs with the local rules document.

13. LASER PROTECTION SUPERVISOR

A suitably qualified member of staff on the premises shall be identified, in writing, as the laser protection supervisor they will have day to day to responsibility of ensuring the local rules are followed.

14. AFTERCARE ADVICE

Appropriate aftercare advice must be provided following each treatment. This must include information on actions to take if any adverse conditions occur. Where possible this should be given in written form for the client to take away.

APPENDIX I - Laser / IPL Local Rules Document

Potential Hazards - List all types of hazards including fire, skin and eye injuries, electrical etc.

Device Description - Description of all devices including output, serial numbers etc.

Treatment Protocol - Reference to separate document produced by the Expert Medical Practitioner.

Written Procedures - Supported by reference to user manual/training manual etc.

Adverse Incident Procedure - Details of actions that shall be taken in cases of emergency e.g. eye exposure Name, address and telephone no of local accident and emergency department. Any incidents must also be reported to Council so include local Environmental Health contact details.

Emergency Shutdown Procedure - Instructions as set down in manufacturer's manual or treatment protocol.

Register of Authorised Users - Details of trained personnel with signed declarations of individuals.

Laser Protection Advisor - Contact details of the LPA