

The

Hairdressers Registration Board of Western Australia

Newsletter Issue Two - Second Quarter, 2009

Government Proposal For The Hairdressing Industry in WA

In June 2009, the Hon Troy Buswell BEdc MLA wrote to all registered hairdressers to inform them about the Government's plans to abolish the Hairdressers Registration Board and de-regulate the hairdressing industry in WA. The Minister advised that the Government's proposal requires the approval of Parliament in order to proceed and that the Parliament is unlikely to consider the proposal until 2010.

Unless and until the Parliament approves the Government's proposal, hairdressers practising in an area covered by the Hairdressers Registration Act 1946 are still required to be registered. In addition, the Hairdressers Registration Board is still responsible for supervising the hairdressing industry.

Information and updates about the proposal are available from the Consumer Protection website, www.commerce.wa.gov.au or by telephoning the Consumer Protection Call Centre on 1300 30 40 54.

New Board Members

The current Board and it's staff would like to welcome the newly appointed members to the Board:

David Hillyard – Chair (to commence on 1 October 2009)

Terry Bright – Deputy Chair

Lea Di Filippo – Deputy Member

Terry Clark – Member

Juliana Cavoli – Deputy Member

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Jackie McKiernan who announced her resignation as Chair of the Board a few months ago to take effect by the 30 September 2009. Her efforts and pro active contribution to the Board is commendable and has seen the Board take a more positive direction in her term of office as Chair.

How Healthy Are Hairdressers?

A prevalence study investigating common health problems of female Western Australian hairdressers.

Researchers from Edith Cowan University are undertaking a study to find out how working as a hairdresser affects your health.

Hairdressing work can involve lots of challenges - handling chemicals, managing clients and standing for long periods are just some examples. There is currently a lack of information in Australia about how work is affecting hairdresser health.

In the next few months, hairdressers from around Western Australia will be invited to participate in a short, written survey. Surveys will be posted to Hairdressing Salons in Western Australia. Female hairdressers, aged 22-66 will be invited to participate.

A report on the health of Western Australian hairdressers will be provided to the Hairdressers Registration Board. While the Board is supportive, this study is funded and approved by Edith Cowan University.

If you have any comments, or would like further information, please contact Mary O'Loughlin, School of Exercise and Biomedical Health Sciences, Edith Cowan University moloughl@student.ecu.edu.au

WORKSAFE ARTICLE

Permeation of hair dye ingredients

Skin irritation and contact allergies are skin disorders common to hairdressers. The predominant oxidative hair dye components, such as p-phenylenediamine (PPD) and aminophenol isomers, can cause contact dermatitis. Use of protective gloves can prevent dermal contact with skin irritants.

This study investigates the permeation behaviors of p-aminophenol (PAP), m-aminophenol (MAP), o-aminophenol (OAP) and PPD in single and mixed challenge solutions with disposable natural rubber latex (NRL) gloves, disposable polyvinylchloride (PVC) gloves and neoprene (NP) gloves. The challenge solutions were 4% PPD (w/v), 3% OAP (w/v), 2% PAP (w/v) and 2% MAP (w/v) in ethanol or 12% hydrogen peroxide solutions. The cocktail solutions of the four chemicals were also tested.

An American Society for Testing and Materials type permeation cell, ethanol liquid collection and gas chromatography-flame ionization detection of samples taken from the collection medium every 10 min facilitated determination of breakthrough times (BTs), cumulative permeated masses and steady-state permeation rates (SSPRs).

Experiments were 4 h long for the NRL and PVC gloves and 8 h for NP gloves. No chemicals tested broke through the NP gloves when exposed for 8 h. In the ethanol solution, PPD and OAP started breaking through the PVC gloves at 40 min. The SSPRs of PVC gloves were higher than those for NRL gloves in all challenge conditions for both single chemicals and mixtures. No tested chemicals in hydrogen peroxide solutions permeated the gloves during the 4-h tests.

The chemical composition of the challenge solution was a main effecter of BTs and SSPRs for the NRL glove. For disposable PVC gloves, the main factors of BTs were molecular size [molar volume (MV)] and polarity (logK(ow)), and the primary

Prosecutions

The Board has successfully prosecuted two hairdressers in the last quarter for breaches to the Hairdressers Registration Act 1946—Section 15. Should you wish to view a full list of our prosecutions please go to the Professional Conduct section of our website at www.hrb.org.au.

factors of SSPRs were concentration, MV and logK(ow). In conclusion, disposable NRL gloves and disposable PVC gloves should not be used repeatedly for handling the hair dye products. Hydrogen peroxide did not accelerate chemical breakthrough. The compositions of the challenge solutions and physical and chemical properties (MV and logK(ow)) affected permeation behaviours for different gloves.

Product Suppliers Positive Feedback

Dear Mr Marshall

I read with interest the section on your website relative to the supply of hairdressing product to people who are unqualified or partially qualified.

Our organisation has similar views in this regard, and strong concerns that the supply of some chemical products to people who are not qualified to use them with the correct precautions could endanger consumers, thus bringing our industry into disrepute and potentially devaluing the professionalism of registered hairdressers.

I applaud your efforts to engage the suppliers in an effort to determine suitable strategies to prevent this, and would appreciate the opportunity to in any way that is practicable. We have had initial contact with a group of suppliers here, but with little success. However some of the names on your list are represented here in New Zealand so perhaps there is opportunity for leverage.

I would be delighted if you could contact me, and any update on your position in this would be much appreciated

Kind regards

Angeline Thornley
Vice President
New Zealand Association of Registered Hairdressers