



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING
PO Box 9020 • Olympia, Washington 98507-9020

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE USE OF LASERS

If you do not use laser devices, you may disregard this notice

The Department of Licensing (DOL) is sending this notice to inform you of rules being adopted by the Department of Health (DOH). They clarify the use of “prescriptive” laser, light, radiofrequency and plasma devices (LLRP). The rules were approved by the Medical Quality Assurance Commission and will become effective March 2007. You can view the rules at www.leg.wa.gov/documents/wsr/2006/15/06-15-130.htm.

What are “prescriptive” LLRP devices?

The rules apply to devices defined by the federal Food and Drug Administration as “prescriptive” devices. They include LLRP devices that penetrate the skin and alter human tissue. You can find a list of these devices by going to www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfPCD/classification.cfm.

Who can use “prescriptive” devices?

These devices can only be used by a physician, a physician’s assistant **or** under certain circumstances by another licensed professional whose practice allows the use of such devices and who is under the supervision of a physician or physician’s assistant.

Is a licensed esthetician allowed to use “prescriptive” LLRP devices?

Yes, in certain circumstances under the supervision of a physician or physician's assistant.

Are laser technicians and electrologists allowed to use “prescriptive” LLRP devices?

No. Individuals in these professions using such devices will be in violation of the DOH rules effective March 2007.

Laser technicians and electrologists who use these types of devices may want to consider the option of obtaining an esthetics or health care professional license.

Licensing information is available on the website or by calling us. See contact information below.

If I am a licensed esthetician and working in a physician’s office, medical spa or other location, do I need to have a salon shop license?

Yes. You can find information on how to apply for a salon shop license at www.dol.wa.gov/business/cosmetology.

The Department of Licensing (DOL) is also considering adoption of rules that will define prescriptive medical devices.

To view the draft go to www.dol.wa.gov/business/cosmetology.

Questions? Call or visit our website at:

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