

18 YEARS' AGE LIMIT

Computer programme solutions

In the light of the recent public health bill, which meant no one under the age of 18 years old was permitted to use tanning equipment, all tanning shops were to have staff present at all times and provide information about the health risks of sunbed use. It was only a matter of time for England, Wales and Northern Ireland to follow suit. What can be done for salon owners? SolarTrack explains how salon software can help.



Fortunately, there are many responsible salon owners in the UK who keep to the industry's voluntary code of practice. Take Paul Senior, owner of Skin Deep salon, Didsbury, Manchester uses SolarTrack software. Paul has always implemented an 18-years-and-over policy for his tanning equipment. Paul recently took part in a discussion on the use of tanning equipment aired on GMG Radio: "It is really important to increase the minimum age of people using tanning equipment," he said: "I have always had a minimum age of 18 using my tanning equipment. I think this bill will help improve standards and people will be more inclined to make an informed decision."

Client details

Software companies such as SolarTrack have always had customers' safety at the heart of its software. With SolarTrack, from the moment a new client comes into the shop, the staff member takes the clients details before they can use the

tanning equipment. The client's date of birth is asked; if their age is younger than the legal requirement the age is shown in bold to warn the staff member this client is too young to use the sunbeds. Doctors contact details are also requested, skin type and a picture can be attached to the record card.

Disclaimer form

Once all details are entered a disclaimer form is printed off for the client to read and sign. The disclaimer form explains the risks of using tanning equipment and provides a list of when it is advised to seek doctors' advice before using tanning equipment. It also offers information of what should be under taken before, during and after tanning.

Over-exposure prevention

SolarTrack records every transaction on the system, when making a sale it is set up to warn staff the client has already had a certain amount of tanning sessions

in that week, month or year and for how many minutes. This helps prevent clients over-exposing themselves to tanning equipment.

Conclusion

Software features such as these can help salon owners and staff members provide clients with more awareness of UV light exposure and an informed choice before tanning. Software systems such as SolarTrack contain a number of facilities which will dramatically improve all aspects of a tanning salons business, quickly and effectively. Along side these aspects it will help salon owners implement the new laws brought in by the public health bill.

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