Sanitary Rules and Regulations
For The Management Of Cosmetology Establishments in South Carolina

All salons shall before opening in the state notify the state Board in writing ten (10) days in advance; all schools and colleges of Cosmetology shall notify the state board in writing 30 days in advance so that an inspection may be made by the board or its agents, to determine whether the establishment has satisfactory facilities and equipment and to determine the sanitary and safety conditions of the premises. All establishments must be open for inspection at all times during business hours to any members of South Carolina State Board of Cosmetology.

(A) Enforcement.

(1) The holder or holders of a salon license or a school license, and the person in charge of any such salon or school, shall be liable for implementing and maintaining the sanitary rules in such salon or school individually and jointly with all persons in or employed by or working in or on the premises of such salon or school. All licensed cosmetologists, instructors, nail technicians and estheticians shall be held individually liable for implementation and maintenance of the sanitary rules applicable to them.

(2) To assure compliance with the laws and regulations governing the operations of salons and schools, the authorized representatives shall have access to the premises of any salon or school, at any time that the instruction or practice of cosmetology is being conducted.

(3) Refusal to permit, or interference with, an inspection constitutes a cause for disciplinary action.

(4) A licensee’s failure to observe all rules and regulations on sanitation and to maintain adequate precautionary measures for the public’s protection and safety is cause for disciplinary action up to revocation of license. Failure to display, in full public view, all licenses applicable to the salon or school and the persons therein engaged in the practice of
cosmetology as well as the sanitary rules and regulations and the sanitary rating given to said salon or school, is sufficient cause for revocation of licenses.

(5) A salon’s or school’s failure to receive a passing inspection is sufficient cause for disciplinary action up to revocation of license, if not corrected by the next inspection. Thirty days thereafter the board may schedule a show cause hearing in accordance with the provisions as established by the statutes regulating cosmetology.

(B) Rules.

(1) Every salon and school must occupy a separate building, or part of a building which is suitable to render adequate sanitary services to the public, wherein cosmetology may be taught or practiced. Salons, schools, and barber shops must be separated from each other by a solid wall from the floor to the ceiling. Salons and schools must also be separated by solid walls and separate entrances.

(2) Salons and schools shall comply with all state and local building, plumbing and electrical codes.

(3) Salons and schools shall comply with all relevant federal/state workplace safety laws.

(4) The use of a salon or school as living, dining or sleeping quarters is prohibited.

(C) Residential Salons.

(1) Residential salons must maintain a separate entrance for clients, which entrance shall not open from the living, dining or sleeping quarters, and all doors previously opening into such quarters must be permanently sealed.
(2) No portion of the salon may be used as a portion of a private residence.

(3) Entrances must permit patrons to enter salon directly without requiring passage through any portion of the residence.

(4) Separate toilet facilities for patrons must be provided apart from the living quarters.

(D) Physical Facilities of Salons and Schools.

(1) Cleanliness and Repair. Each salon and school must keep the floors, walls, woodwork, ceilings, furniture, furnishings, and fixtures clean and in good repair.

(2) Water Supply. Each salon and school must provide a supply of hot and cold running water.

(3) Toilet Facilities. Each salon and school must provide toilet and hand washing facilities consisting of at least one commode and one lavatory in good working order, with hot and cold running water, soap and individual towels. These facilities must be separate and apart from living, dining or sleeping quarters. Restrooms may not be used for storage.

(4) Drinking Water. Each salon and school must supply potable drinking water.

(E) Animals in Salons and Schools.

No person may bring any animal into, permit any animal to be brought into, or permit any animal other than a service animal for the disabled to remain in, a salon or school.

(F) Infectious Disease.
(1) Licensees must not permit any person afflicted with an infestation of parasites or with an infectious or communicable disease which may be transmitted during the performance of the acts of cosmetology or any of its branches, to work or train in a salon or in a school.

(2) No salon or school may knowingly require or permit a student or person licensed by the Board of Cosmetology to work upon a person known to suffer from any infectious or communicable disease which may be transmitted during the performance of the acts of cosmetology or any of its branches.

(3) No salon or school may require or allow a student or licensee of the Board of Cosmetology to perform any service on a patron with a known infestation of parasites.

(G) Personal Cleanliness.

(1) Person and Wearing Apparel. The person and the uniform or attire worn by an individual serving a patron must be clean and appropriate at all times.

(2) Washing Hands. Every person performing cosmetological services in a salon or school must thoroughly wash his or her hands with soap and water or any equally effective cleansing solution before serving each patron.

(H) Instruments and Supplies.

(1) Licensees and students must dispose of all supplies or instruments which come in direct contact with a patron and cannot be disinfected (for example, cotton pads, emery boards used on the natural nail, and neck strips) in a waste receptacle immediately after their use.

(I) Disinfecting Nonelectrical Instruments and Equipment.
(1) Before use upon a patron, all non-electrical instruments with a sharp point or edge which may on occasion pierce the skin and draw blood (scissors, razors, tweezers, cuticle nippers, nail technician scissors, etc.) and all non-electrical instruments without sharp points or edges (combs, brushes, rollers) and all instruments and accessories used in all branches of cosmetology, including nail technology, must be disinfected in the following manner:

(a) clean with soap (or detergent) and water, and then

(b) totally immerse implements with an EPA-registered hospital level disinfectant with demonstrated bactericidal, fungicidal, pseudomonacidal and virucidal or tuberculocidal activity used according to manufacturer’s instructions.

(2) All disinfected instruments must be stored in a clean, covered place.

(3) The disinfectant solutions specified in subdivision (1):

(a) shall remain covered at all times;
(b) shall be changed at least once per week or whenever visibly cloudy or dirty; and
(c) shall be of sufficient size to accommodate all instruments.

(4) All nondisinfected instruments (those that have been used on a patron or soiled in any manner) must be placed in a properly labeled receptacle.

(J) Disinfecting Electrical Instruments.
(1) Licensees and students must disinfect clippers, vibrators, and other electrical instruments prior to each use by:

(a) first removing all foreign matter; and
(b) disinfecting with EPA-registered hospital level disinfectant with demonstrated bactericidal, fungicidal, pseudomonacidal and virucidal or tuberculocidal activity used according to manufacturer’s instructions.

(2) All disinfected electrical instruments shall be stored in a clean, covered place.

(K) Liquids, Creams, Powders and Other Cosmetic Preparations.

(1) Storage. All liquids, creams and other cosmetic preparations must be kept in properly labeled clean and closed containers. Powders may be kept in a clean shaker.

(2) Removal from Container. When only a portion of a cosmetic preparation is to be used on a patron, licensees and students shall remove it from the container in such a way as not to contaminate the remaining portion.

(L) Headrests, Shampoo Bowls, and Treatment Tables.

(1) Licensees and students must cover the headrest of chairs with a clean towel or paper sheet for each patron.
(2) Shampoo trays and bowls must be cleansed with soap and water or other detergent after each shampoo and kept in good repair and in a sanitary condition at all times.
(3) Licensees and students must cover treatment tables with a clean sheet of examination paper for each patron.

(M) Towels.

(1) Used Towels to Be Discarded. After a towel has been used once, it must be deposited in a closed receptacle, and shall not be used again until properly laundered and sanitized.
(2) Methods of Laundering. Used towels must be laundered either by regular commercial laundering or by a noncommercial laundering process which includes immersion in water at 140 degrees F for not less than fifteen (15) minutes during the washing or rinsing operation.

(3) Storage. All clean towels must be stored in a closed cabinet.
(N) Bottles and Containers.
Licensees and students must distinctly and correctly label all bottles and containers in use in a school or salon to disclose their contents. All bottles containing poisonous substances shall be additionally and distinctly marked as such.

(O) Neck Strips.
Licensees and students must use sanitary neck strips or towels to keep the protective covering from coming in direct contact with a patron’s neck.