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OHLA Begins Outreach to State's Airbrush Tanning Practitioners as Pending Regulation Nears in 2007

Salem, OR, April 14, 2006—The Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) is initiating an outreach campaign to the state's airbrush tanning practitioners to inform them of pending regulation of the industry.

"We want to provide existing practitioners ample time to comply with state cosmetology requirements," says Larry Peck, OHLA Manager of Regulatory Operations. "We will be giving them until the end of 2006 to obtain certification in esthetics, the cosmetology field of practice under which airbrush tanning falls."

The Board of Cosmetology, with OHLA in concurrence, found airbrush tanning to fall within the esthetics scope of practice two years ago. Regulation of the emerging industry was postponed until after the passage of House Bill 2105 in the 2005 Legislation Session. HB 2105, among other things, eliminated an outdated provision in state law that limited the esthetics scope of practice to the neck and above.

OHLA has begun contacting all tanning salons in the state to educate them about the pending regulation. Airbrush tanning practitioners who are not yet certified in esthetics will need to do so, either by taking 500 hours of training at a state private career school or completing instruction at a competency-based school, which takes existing skills and experience into account.

OHLA will also be educating consumers about the potential risks of inhalation or ingestion of the airbrush tanning solution in the eyes, nose and mucous membranes.

More than 17,000 esthetics certifications are currently issued in Oregon. Applicants are required to take 250 course hours specific to their scope of practice, 150 hours of safety and infection control, and 100 hours in career development at private career schools licensed by the Department of Education. They must also pass state-administered written and practical examinations to become certified to practice.

Please visit www.oregon.gov/OHLA for more information on the OHLA central agency and on cosmetology requirements in Oregon.

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