



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## **Health Licensing Agency**

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## **URGENT NOTIFICATION**

This letter notifies you officially that the Oregon Health Licensing Agency must temporarily discontinue giving the Cosmetology – NIC Examination, effective Aug. 11, 2009. An NIC “security site review” that we requested earlier this year shows that the integrity of the examination has been compromised. After receiving the results of the review from the NIC on Aug. 10, Director Randall Everitt made the decision to discontinue the examination.

This regrettable decision followed close consultation with the OHLA management team, the chair of the Cosmetology Board, and the director of Oregon Department of Administrative Services. All agree that this action is unavoidable.

The agency understands the temporary effects of this decision on students and other stakeholders who apply for licensing. Unfortunately this action is the only way to deal with past security breaches that have compromised the integrity of the NIC examination.

**Please note that discontinuing the NIC examination is temporary.** The Agency expects to resume giving the examination on Aug. 20, 2009.

To ensure the security, integrity and continuance of the NIC examination, we must follow a rigorous process that involves working with the various vendors who help deliver the examination in the “Touch Screen – Electronic Format.” This process may take some time.

**Thus, beginning on August 20, we will provide the examination in written form until we finish the process of restoring a secure electronic format. We will administer the written examination in a proctored setting on a schedule that we will publish.**

We want to assure the Oregon Career Schools of Cosmetology that the OHLA staff will do everything possible to provide further information to the schools and their students about this and related matters. We deeply regret the necessity of these actions, but we share the commitment of the cosmetology profession to ensuring not only the integrity of professional testing, but also to keeping the public’s trust.

**Contact information:** To receive further information, or to schedule a written examination, please contact a Customer Service Representative at: **(503) 373-1678**. Please see the reverse side for more information.

# **QUESTION AND ANSWER**

**When will examinations resume?** August 20, 2009 at 1 pm.

**Are examinations given on a walk in basis?** No. Examinations will be pre-scheduled by appointment ONLY.

**What phone number do I call to schedule my examination appointment?** The agency has set up a special hotline to schedule appointments the number is (503) 373-1678.

**Where will examinations be held?** Oregon Health Licensing Agency, Rhoades Conference Room 700 Summer St NE, Suite 320, Salem, OR 97301-1287.

**How will tests be administered?** Paper and pencil style.

**Is the Oregon Health Licensing Agency, Board of Cosmetology continuing to use the National Interstate Council for State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC) written examination?** Yes.

**What if I only have to take the Oregon Laws and Rules examination?** Computer based testing for the Oregon Laws and Rules examinations is still available on a walk in basis. See specific criteria below:

- Obtaining or renewing a Certificate of Identification
- Obtaining certification through reciprocity
- If candidate has fulfilled all other examination requirements with the exception of the Oregon Laws and Rules examination (example: the candidate has passed the field of practice test i.e. hair design, barbering, nail technology, or esthetic, but has not passed the Oregon Laws and Rules examination)

**What should I bring to the examination?** Two forms of identification (one must be photographic under Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 331-030-0000(10)) when sitting for the examination.

**When will computer based testing resume?** Once sufficient security measures have been met.

**Will I get my certificate today?** No. Same day licensing has been suspended until sufficient security measures have been met.

**Once I have taken my examinations when can I expect to receive my certification?** Each examination must be sent to the NIC for grading and authentication. You should receive your certificate in 10 to 14 business days.