



Factsheet

Solarium

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<https://www.bag.admin.ch/en/fact-sheets-nir>

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New legislation for solaria

Initial Situation

If solaria are incorrectly installed, maintained or used then users may be exposed to very high levels of UV radiation. Such radiation exposure may lead to dangerous burns, to premature skin ageing and even to cancer. Consequently, the International Agency for Research on Cancer categorised solaria as carcinogenic.

In order to minimise these risks the *Federal Act on Protection Against Hazards Arising from Non-ionising Radiation and Sound (NIRSA)* stipulates appropriate measures. They are defined in the *Ordinance to the Federal Act on Protection Against Hazards Arising from Non-Ionising Radiation and Sound (O-NIRSA)*. The Act as well as the Ordinance, which the Federal Council approved on 27.2.2019, entered into force on 1 June 2019.

Objective

The objective of the new legislation is to ensure that operators of solaria provide users with equipment that is properly installed, used and maintained according to the safety regulations of the solaria manufacturers. This will ensure that health risks from solaria are reduced to a tolerable level.

These safety regulations are defined in the European Solaria Standard¹. This recognised and long established Standard forms the basis of the new legislation on solaria which for this reason stipulates no new material requirements on solaria.

¹ Standard SN EN 60335-2-27:2013, Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-27: Particular requirements for appliances for skin exposure to ultraviolet and infrared radiation.

Duties of the operators

The O-NIRSA lays out the legal basis that allows the cantonal enforcement authorities in the future to make random on-the-spot checks in companies to determine whether the operators comply with the solarium Standard. In particular, the operators shall fulfil the following duties:

To which solarium operators do the new provisions apply to?

The new provisions apply to commercial companies, associations, clubs, cooperatives and other providers who make solariums available to persons in return for payment or free of charge. Private persons who operate solariums exclusively within the family do not fall within the scope of this Ordinance.

In the context of the O-NIRSA, solarium means all systems and devices which expose the skin to UV radiation for any purpose (tanning, vitamin D synthesis, bone consolidation, heat or relaxation). Exemptions are medicinal products that generate UV radiation for the treatment of diseases, and do not fall under the O-NIRSA.

Ban on minors

Strong UV radiation particularly jeopardises the health of young persons. Consequently, operators shall equip and operate their solariums in such a way that persons under 18 years cannot use them.

Risk groups

Solariums present a high risk for persons who are sensitive to UV radiation. Such persons shall not use solariums under any circumstances. Operators shall therefore place a notice at the entrance of their salon to inform potential users of such risk groups.

The risk groups are described on the FOPH homepage (see further information); some examples are:

- Persons who suffer or have suffered from skin cancer.
- Persons at increased risk of skin cancer who, for example, have a history of severe sunburn during childhood, or who have conspicuous moles.
- Persons sensitive to UV radiation and who, for example, are not able to tan when exposed to the sun, have freckles or are inherently red-haired.
- Persons who are on photosensitive medication or who are being treated for photosensitivity.

Exposure time schedule

Radiation doses of people visiting the solariums shall be planned in order to minimise risks. For this purpose, operators shall provide an appropriate exposure time schedule to the users. Operators shall equip solariums in such a way that they can be configured and operated according to the provisions of the exposure time schedule. Provisions for the exposure time schedule are described in the O-NIRSA.

Risks and Measures

UV radiation from solariums may, in some circumstances, nevertheless jeopardise the users who are not normally sensitive to UV radiation. Operators, by means of posters, shall therefore inform users about those dangers and provide advice on measures that can minimise these dangers.

Labeling of solaria, irradiance limit values and protective goggles

Operators shall label their solaria as a UV type 1, 2, 3 or 4 so as to indicate their UV-A and UV-B radiation components. They shall ensure that the radiation from their solaria complies with the limit value for the health-related effects of UV radiation. They shall retrofit or shut down solaria if their UV radiation does not correspond to the listed UV type or comply with the limit value. As sensitive eyes are not adequately protected by the limit value, operators shall provide suitable UV protective goggles in each solarium.

Unattended solaria

In the absence of a trained attendant, solarium operators may only offer solaria of UV type 3 which users can operate independently.

Attended solaria

Operators may offer all types of UV equipment in attended solaria. They may offer solaria of UV type 4 only to users who are in possession of a doctor's rec-

ommendation. They must deploy personnel who have completed the required training.

What training is required for personnel?

In attended solaria the personnel must be trained. The requirements for the training and the registered training organisations depend on the corresponding Standards². Successful trainees are awarded the title "Indoor UV exposure consultant".

Further information on training opportunities in Switzerland can be obtained from the Solarienverband Schweiz:

Photomed Schweiz
Bachstrasse 3
6362 Stansstad
Tel 041 632 50 29
E-mail info@photomed.ch
www.photomed.ch

Transitory provisions

To prevent persons under 18 years from using the solaria, the age of the user must be checked. For this purpose a technical solution is required in unattended solaria. In order to give enough time for this retrofitting, the O-NIRSA provides an extended transitional period. Consequently, by 1 January 2022, solaria shall be equipped and operated in such a manner that persons under 18 years will be unable to use them.

For all other provisions on solaria, which define how operators shall equip and operate their solaria, there will be a transitional period of one year after the O-NIRSA takes effect.

Further information

Further information on solaria can be found on the FOPH homepage <https://www.bag.admin.ch/de/solarium>

Further information on the legislative provisions stipulated by the O-NIRSA can be found in the comments on O-NIRSA in chapter 2.2.1 "Use of solaria" on pages 9–13.

² SN EN 16489-1:2014, "Professional indoor UV exposure services – Part 1: Requirements for the provision of training";
SN EN 16489-2:2015, "Professional indoor UV exposure services – Part 2: Required qualification and competence of the indoor UV exposure consultant".