

Level 2 Award in Nail Salon Hygiene

10 Guided Learning Hours

QCA Accreditation: awaited

Description

This single unit award equips candidates with a basic knowledge and understanding of the principles of public health and hygiene as they apply in the nail salon environment. It is designed for those who work, or intend to work, as nail technicians. The award may be taken as a stand alone award or as part of the wider course of training (e.g. to add value to National Vocational Qualifications for the sector by re-enforcing underpinning knowledge in public health and hygiene). It is mapped to the relevant knowledge elements of the following National Occupational Standards for Nail Services as published by HABIA, the Standards Setting Body (SSB) for the Hair and Beauty sector:

Unit BT7: Provide manicure treatment

Unit BT8: Provide pedicure treatment

Unit B12: Extend and maintain nails

Unit BT13: Provide nail art service

Unit G1: Ensure your own actions reduce risks to health and safety

Summary of Outcomes:

To achieve this qualification a candidate must:

1. **Understand individual responsibility to ensure public health and hygiene in the nail salon, by being able to:**
 - State the technician's duty of care to staff and clients
 - Describe how risks associated with workplace hazards can be prevented or minimised by adopting safe working practices
 - State the importance of accurate and confidential record keeping.
2. **Understand how to maintain high standards of personal hygiene, by being able to:**
 - Outline the basic rules for effective personal hygiene
 - State the principles for a dress code.
3. **Understand how to keep the work area safe, clean and hygienic, by being able to:**
 - Explain the importance of cleaning, disinfection and sterilization in the salon
 - Describe the correct use of disinfectants and sterilization.
4. **Understand how the nail technician can maintain health and hygiene for him/herself and clients, by being able to:**
 - Explain the procedure for identifying any contra-indications to service provision
 - Describe the procedures to be followed when adverse skin conditions/infections are encountered
 - State how to deal with contra-actions during or after service
 - State when and how to use protective clothing
 - Indicate when to report problems.

Note: This award does not include first aid, for which training and certification are available from a large number of providers.

Content

1. Individual responsibility for public health and hygiene in the nail salon

Duty of care: Duty of care to identify hazards, assess risks and prevent/minimise them by adopting safe working practices (Health and Safety at Work Act 1974; Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999); powers of HSE to inspect at any reasonable time; obligations under the Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992; ensuring all visitors are safe while on the premises (Regulatory Reform [Fire Safety] Order 2005); what to do in the event of a fire; promoting inclusiveness.

Hazards and Risks:

Categories of hazard: environmental, physical, microbial, chemical (G1 K6)

Risk from environmental and physical hazards: Effects of poor lighting on health of technicians and safety of clients, especially disabled people; effects of poor ventilation, especially when volatile compounds are being used; general comfort of both client and technician as part of the healthy working environment; chairs with suitable support

Risk from microbial hazards: Importance of minimising cross infection; the reason for cleaning towels at minimum 70°C; purpose and use of disposable towels and equipment (Health and Safety at Work Act 1974; COSHH Regulations 2002); safe disposal of waste (Controlled Waste Regulations 1992).

Risk from chemical hazards: Importance of safe working practices when using toxic or inflammable chemicals

Record keeping: The importance and purposes of keeping accurate records; legal obligations regarding data management (Data Protection Act 1998).

2. Maintaining high standards of personal hygiene

Rules for effective personal hygiene: Reasons for high standards of personal appearance and personal hygiene; methods of personal hygiene including when and how to wash hands effectively; causes of body odour (bromidrosis) and excessive sweating (hyperhidrosis) and how to prevent them; posture to minimise fatigue and risk of injury; how to prevent repetitive strain injury; importance of covering cuts while working.

Principles for dress code: Suitable clothing for salon workplace; reasons for removing jewellery and tying back long hair while working

3. Keeping the work area safe, clean and hygienic

Importance of cleaning, disinfection and sterilization: Definitions of sterilization, disinfectant, antiseptic, and the differences between them; reasons why equipment is cleaned and disinfected; importance of cleaning the general work area; principal sources and routes of cross-infection; the difference between direct and indirect contact in the spread of infection.

Correct use of disinfectants and sterilization: The function of a disinfectant and how and when it should be used; function of sterilization and how and when to use it; importance of following manufacturer's instructions and implications if not followed; why disinfectants should be replaced on a regular basis; procedures for safe storage and disposal of disinfectants and other chemicals.

4. Maintaining health and hygiene for staff and clients

Procedures for identifying contra-indications: Meaning of "contra-indication" and how it will affect service; need to question client about known allergies; reason why services cannot be carried out on exposed open or infected wounds or conditions. (G1 K3,4,7,10,11,13; BT7 K2,14,21,22; BT8 K2,14,21,22; BT13 K2,21,22)

Procedures regarding adverse skin conditions/infections: Meaning of terms “infectious” and “non-infectious” conditions, “pathogenic” and “non-pathogenic” and their relevance to salon hygiene; how to deal with any spillages of body fluid (e.g. blood, vomit); action the technician should take if he/she is aware that client has Aids, HIV, Hepatitis B. How to recognise signs and symptoms of:

- a) viral infections - verrucae (plantar warts), common warts;
- b) fungal infections - ringworm of the nails (tinea unguium), athlete’s foot (tinea pedis)
- c) bacterial infections – impetigo, whitlow (paronychia)
- d) non-infectious conditions – eczema, psoriasis, contact dermatitis, pitting of nails and the links to psoriasis.

The relevance of all these conditions to the nail service: Correct procedures for dealing with these conditions.

Dealing with contra-actions: Procedures for dealing with contra-actions occurring during or after service eg allergic reactions and overexposure; breaking or splitting of natural nail or nail extension; how to deal with any spillages of body fluid eg blood or vomit.

Protective clothing (ref outcome 1): importance of using gloves to protect technician from allergic reaction or contact dermatitis; use of masks during application of plastic tips.

Reporting problems: Treatments that (a) can, and (b) must not, be carried out in the salon on the medical conditions listed above; obligations under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995.

Assessment

The assessment will consist of one examination paper of 30 multiple choice questions to be answered in 45 minutes. All outcomes are assessed.

To attain a pass, candidates must achieve 20 correct answers out of 30.
To attain a credit, candidates must achieve 26 correct answers out of 30.

Pre-Course Entry Requirements

There are no mandatory pre-course entry requirements. However, it is recommended that candidates have attained standards of literacy and numeracy equivalent to Level 1 to enable them to fully access the course.

Examination Entry Requirements

Candidates must have attained the knowledge outcomes prior to taking the examination. This may be achieved by undertaking a course of instruction approved by the RSPH, or by having attained other suitable qualifications and/or experience.

Application for entry to the examination must be made through an RSPH registered training centre. A list of centres is available on the RSPH website: www.rsph.org.uk

Examination Results and Certificates

RSPH Registered Centres will be supplied with a results list stating whether candidates have passed or failed the examination and indicating the grade.

Certificates for successful candidates are normally sent to RSPH Registered Centres for distribution to candidates.

Progression

Progression options for holders of this award are to:

- Select nail services as a specialty, for which the Level 3 National Vocational Qualification (which includes a focus on artificial nails) within the nail service route would be appropriate, or:
- Widen their knowledge of health and hygiene in the beauty salon by taking the RSPH Level 2 Certificate in Salon Hygiene.

References

See Appendix 1.

Key Skills

Delivery of the RSPH Level 2 Award in Nail Salon Hygiene provides opportunities for developing and assessing certain Key Skills.

The examination does not directly assess Key Skills, but the knowledge required, if put into practice during a course, would require the application of Key Skills which might be independently assessed at the same time in line with published guidance. See Appendix 2 for further guidance.

This award could also provide opportunities for consideration of ethical, social, cultural, environmental and other issues. See Appendix 2 for further guidance.

Guidance for Training / Examination Centres

Centres wishing to provide courses leading to the RSPH Level 2 Award in Nail Salon Hygiene should first apply to the RSPH for registration.

Prospective trainers will normally have an Advanced Hairdressing or Beauty qualification or related degree level qualification, relevant work experience and a training qualification and/or experience of training.

Full details of registration procedures and application forms are available from the RSPH website. Once registered, a powerpoint tutor aid is available free of charge to assist trainers with delivery of content.

Examinations for this qualification can be held on demand and Registered RSPH Centres can make exam bookings online via the RSPH website or directly with

The Qualifications Department,
Royal Society for Public Health
3rd Floor
Market Towers
1 Nine Elms Lane
SW8 5NQ

Exam bookings should be made at least two weeks before the date of the examination. Bookings made less than two weeks before the date of the examination will be subject to a late booking fee.

Examination Centres may wish to make special arrangements for candidates for whom the standard examination format might present difficulties. Full details and the special arrangements form can be found on the RSPH website.

Other Issues

Delivery of this award provides opportunities for developing understanding of wider issues that affect us all. Some areas for consideration are given below.

Social and cultural issues	Candidates may discuss social and cultural influences on health and beauty, how these may affect how individuals feel about themselves and how nail technicians can show awareness and sensitivity in these matters.
Ethical and legislative issues, including health and safety	These issues are integral to this award, as technicians have a legal duty of care towards their clients and staff. Health and safety issues are addressed in each outcome. Ethical issues on maintenance of confidentiality in relation to personal information known or held about individuals may also be considered.
Economic issues	Candidates may consider the financial cost to individuals, and the wider economic cost, of illness and injury caused as a result of unsafe practice.
Environmental issues	Candidates may consider ways in which nail salon staff could reduce their impact on the environment by reviewing, for example, the quantity and types of waste that is produced and the methods of disposal.
European and global issues	Candidates might wish to compare social and cultural influences on health and beauty in the UK and in other countries.

Appendix 2: Key Skills

Although the RSPH Level 2 Award in Nail Salon Hygiene does not directly assess Key Skills, the delivery of it provides opportunities for developing, or for generating evidence for, Key Skills which might be independently assessed in line with published guidance. Some examples of such opportunities are given below, but it is recommended that tutors first read the relevant Key Skills standards and guidance which can be accessed at <http://www.qca.org.uk> Guidance on assessment can be accessed at the same location.

Application of Number

<i>Skill</i>	<i>Specification Content</i>	<i>Suggested Activity</i>
N2.1	Interpret information from a suitable source	Candidates could be asked to interpret statistics on the incidence of relevant medical conditions.
N2.2	Use your information to carry out calculations	Candidates could be asked to show how statistics compare over time, for the various relevant medical conditions encountered amongst different age groups and geographical areas

Communication

<i>Skill</i>	<i>Specification Content</i>	<i>Suggested Activity</i>
C2.2	Read and summarise information from at least two documents on the same subject. Each must be a minimum of 500 words long.	Candidates could be asked to undertake this exercise using documents/handouts provided or recommended by the tutor for any aspect of the syllabus.
C3.1a	Take part in a group discussion	Group discussions could be held on any aspect of the syllabus. Candidates should make clear contributions to the discussion, respond sensitively to others and develop points and ideas. They should also encourage others to contribute.

Working with Others

Skill Specification Content

Suggested Activity

WO2.1 Plan work with others

Candidates could undertake a joint exercise to identify hazards in a given salon environment and what measures would be appropriate to minimise the risks of infection to workers and/or clients.

Information and Communication Technology

Skill Specification Content

Suggested Activity

ICT2.1 Search for and select information to meet your needs, using different sources of information for each task and multiple search criteria in at least one case.

Candidates could search websites and other media for information on relevant chemical products.