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CALLS FOR NEW LAW TO PROTECT YOUNGSTERS FROM TANNING RISKS

Health and safety lawyers have today called for a new law to protect children from potential harm caused by sunbeds.

The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) has told the Health and Safety Executive that allowing under 18s to use UV tanning equipment should become a criminal offence, saying it is vital to protect children and young people from the harmful effects of sunbed use.

“There are serious health risks for anyone using UV tanning equipment, but we are particularly concerned about young people,” said APIL chief executive, Denise Kitchener. “While we welcome the HSE’s move to change the recommended minimum age from 16 to 18, we firmly believe youngsters will only be fully protected if this becomes law, which is what is proposed in Scotland.”

Today is the end of a consultation period by the HSE, on a number of proposals to revise its guidance for sunbed operators. As well as calling for stricter controls relating to under 18s, APIL said more information should be available so that all customers are fully aware of the risks of UV tanning.

“The HSE’s suggestion that operators should provide customers with advice does not go far enough,” said Denise. “We want to see warning signs in every sunbed cubicle and in full view of customers walking into a salon.

“Customers should also be asked to read and sign a consent form to ensure they understand the risks involved. It is essential people are



given enough information to make an informed and educated choice before they go ahead.”

ENDS

Note to editors:

APIL responded to the Health and Safety executive consultation paper on the revision of guidance leaflet INDG209: ‘Reducing health risks from the use of UV tanning equipment’

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- APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers) was established in 1990 by a group of lawyers working on behalf of personal injury victims and now has more than 5,000 members. APIL campaigns for improvements in the law to help people who are injured or become ill through no fault of their own.

Further information can also be found at the organisation’s website - www.apil.org.uk