

Report on Optical Radiation Activities in Denmark

13th Meeting of the Optical Radiation Programme

Policies and legislation

The responsibility for regulating medical and cosmetic use of optical radiation lies with the Danish Patient Safety Authority. Product safety and conformance to limit values for e.g. sunbeds is regulated by the Danish Safety Technology Authority. Work Environment in Denmark is the responsible authority for regulating exposure of workers.

The responsibility for health risk assessment of exposures to optical radiation lies with the Danish Health Authority (SST). SST follows recommendations from WHO and EU. SST also works closely with the radiation protection authorities in the other Nordic countries. SST does not conduct studies, measurements or research on non-ionizing radiation.

In Denmark, the use of sunbeds is regulated in Act No. 718 enacted in 2014. The Act set requirements for the technical standard of sunbeds, including the maximum radiation. The act also introduced a mandatory registration scheme for tanning centers, as well as a requirement that a tanning center must be staffed if UV-1 and UV-2 type sunbeds are present in the tanning salon. In addition, a requirement was introduced that a poster with health advice on sunbed use, supplied by SST, must be visibly displayed in the tanning salon. The Danish Safety Technology Authority monitors compliance with the provisions.

Denmark is still one of the only countries in Northern Europe where sunbed use is allowed for persons under 18 years of age. Due to the high incidence of skin cancer, SST promotes further regulatory restrictions on the use of sunbeds.

Communication

SST provides information related to exposures and health issues related to sun and UV exposure on its website, www.sst.dk.

SST participates in the so-called Sun Group, together with The Danish Safety Technology Authority, the Danish Society of Dermatology, the Danish Ministry of the Environment, the Danish Meteorological Institute and the Danish Cancer Society. The purpose of the Sun Group is to ensure aligned and coordinated professional announcements from the participating institutions in the sun and solarium area. In addition, the Sun Group must ensure the exchange of experience and information regarding new research, treatment systems, relevant registers and registrations, upcoming/planned campaigns and press activities, etc.

The Sun Group has prepared and regularly updates fact sheets with short and precise information for citizens about various matters of UV exposure, such as skin cancer, sun protection of children, vitamin C and sunbeds.

Anders Ravensborg Beierholm

Special Advisor

anrb@sis.dk

Danish Health Authority

Radiation Protection

sis@sis.dk