

Formaldehyde Hazards in Hair Salons

WORKER HEALTH & SAFETY



Salon owners using products that contain formaldehyde or may release formaldehyde products **must comply** with the following OSHA standards:

OSHA Formaldehyde Standard 1910.1048:

osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1048

OSHA Hazard Communication Standard 1910.1200:

osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1200



Know the health risks.

- Breathing certain levels can cause/worsen asthma, cause eye/nose irritation, and result in allergic reactions.
- Fairly low levels can cause nose/throat irritation, causing coughs, chest pain, shortness of breath, and wheezing.
- Higher levels can cause throat swelling, lung inflammation, and fluid in the lungs.
- Long-term exposures may lead to certain cancers.



Understand the exposure.

- Can occur while using hair straightening or smoothing products.
- Formaldehyde is released into air as a gas during heat processing step (usually done with a flat iron).
- Hair salon products might also contain chemicals that release formaldehyde when the product is heated (i.e., flat-ironing or blow-drying).



Read the Labels.

- Read the label on the product bottle or box and the products safety data sheet.
- Formaldehyde might be listed as methylene glycol, formalin, methylene oxide, paraform, formic aldehyde, methanal, oxomethane, oxymethylene, or CAS Number 50-00-0.



Scan the QR code to access our fact sheet with more detailed information and resources on how to protect hair salon workers from formaldehyde exposure.