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South Carolina
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Board of Cosmetology



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FAQ's: Licensees, Instructors, Schools and Salons

- **Q:** Is the Board able to “override” current [Regulations/Statutes](#)?
A: No, The Board cannot override the current Regulations and/or Statutes.
- **Q:** Why did the Board provide guidance instead of changing [Regulation 35-20\(P\)\(6\)](#)?
A: There is a statutorily mandated process that must be followed for a regulation to be changed, that includes legislative review. Therefore, the current Regulation 35-20(P)(6) governs the practice of Esthetics until a new regulation is officially effective. However, in reviewing certain esthetic practices, the Board determined that some additional services can be performed within the scope of the current Regulation, and provided guidance to clarify what is permissible. **IMPORTANTLY**, services still must fall within the current Regulation/Statutes. The Board **cannot** override the current Regulation.
- **Q:** What type of services has the Board provided updated guidance on that are deemed to be within an Esthetician's/Cosmetologist's scope of practice?
A: Dermaplaning for the purpose of exfoliation, micro and nano needling/channeling to a depth of no more than 1.4 mm, and peels with a pH of 2.5 or higher.
- **Q:** While rendering services, what is the *deepest* layer of skin an Esthetician/Cosmetologist is able to penetrate?
A: Regulation does not allow the use of any product or device penetrating below the stratum germinativum.
- **Q:** According to Board's current Regulations/Statute, what is strictly **prohibited** when practicing Esthetics?
A: Any product, preparation, device or procedure that penetrates beyond the stratum germinativum is, at this time, still prohibited and the use of or possession on licensed premises of these products or implements used to provide those services is strictly prohibited. This would include microblading or micropigmentation, and/or procedures or devices purporting to impact the dermal layer of the skin, or tissues below the dermal layer of the skin such as muscle or fat. Additionally, it is not permitted to use any product, preparation, device or procedure that cuts, alters, or destroys living tissue.