

## *Commentary*

*By*

*Micheal D Ewert*

### Nail Salon Ventilation Q & A

Q1. Table 403.3 deals with occupancy ventilation. Under the category of "Specialty shops" there is an occupancy classification for "*Beauty*" and "*Nail salon*". Are "*beauty*" salons that offer services for manicures and pedicures only, (no add-on acrylic nail service) considered "nail salons"?

A1. Yes. There are several names for these types of businesses: In the 50's and 60's I can remember my mother going once a month to the Beauty Parlor, now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century my daughter in-law goes to a Day Spa or Nail Salon. One thing most of these modern day "Spas" or "Salons" have in common is that they offer manicures and pedicures. Some specialize in nail treatment, while others offer it as just one of their many personal care services. The degree of extremity treatment varies between shops. Some are more therapeutic in nature, while others offer enhanced procedures, such-as add-on acrylic nails. Most offer, at a minimum, to clip, file and apply polish to their clients nails. Therefore, for the intent of this commentary and Table 403.3, any business (or area within a business) that performs manicures and pedicures shall be considered a "nail salon" for the purposes of station ventilation/exhaust.

Q2. Are pedicures and manicures treated equally? Do both need "point-of-use" ventilation/exhaust?

A2. Yes. Although some would like to separate these two services, it's hard to argue their differences. When we talk about the basic services, both procedures typically clip, file, and apply polish to their clients nails. Nails located on toes get the same treatment as those

located on fingers. There may be more attention given to the pampering of the feet through massage and stimulating hot water, but when it comes to clipping, filing and/or adding polish, there's not much difference in the treatment.

Q3. Manicure stations are readily available with point-of-use ventilation/exhaust capability. Do you know of any pedicure stations with this ability?

A3. No, I am not in the business of selling nail salon products, so I am not aware of the options available in the market place.

Q4. Is there a minimum distance from the "source" of contaminate? If someone were to install a hood over the work-station, like a fume hood or a kitchen type of hood, would the hood need to be within 18" -- 24" -- 36" -- or ?" above the manicure or pedicure station? Is a hood over the general work-station area even a viable option?

A4. The code does not provide prescriptive specifications on how to "capture the contaminants and odors at their source". One could assume that "capturing" can be accomplished either through a down-draft system, vertical up-draft (hood) system, or maybe even a flexible exhaust hose laid across the work area. Providing a separate e-vac system at each work station, with a minimum of 50 cfm, is what the code requires. Any of the above mentioned methods can be used to meet this exhaust need. If the hood method is used, the cfm requirements may need to be increased based on the height of the hood above the work area. At this time there are no prescriptive standards to follow. Performance testing will determine whether or not a specific method of "capture" is working.

Q5. In addition to the point-of-use ventilation requirement in footnote (i) of Table 403.3, do *nail* salons require additional occupancy

ventilation? Would it be the same as *beauty* salons (25 cfm per person)?

A5. Yes. The "Nail salon" category in Table 403.3 is directed specifically to a work station and to the performance of specific duties at that station. The over-all general environment of the building or room will also need specific occupancy ventilation, and the requirements found under the category "Beauty" would seem appropriate.

Q6. Exterior location of exhaust outlets for these point-of-use exhaust systems will be determined by Section 501.2.1. What are these systems called; "ducts conveying explosive/flammable vapors", "other product-conveying ducts" or "environmental air ducts"?

A6. One could argue that this type of exhaust system is similar to those identified in the definition of "Environmental air," but due to the potential dust products (nail dust) generated in the performance of these nail treatments, Section 501.2.1, item 2 ("other product-conveying outlets") would be more appropriate to determine clearance and location of exhaust duct outlets. Also Chapter 4, Section 401.4 should be looked at for additional termination clearances.

### **Questions?**

Call or write to Mike Ewert at  
503-373-7529

or

[mike.d.ewert@state.or.us](mailto:mike.d.ewert@state.or.us)