

## OFFERING RED-LIGHT? STRESS EYEWEAR!

BY BRENDA FISHBAUGH

**M**ore and more tanning salons are adding red light therapy to their service menus. Since the units do not emit ultraviolet light, the law does not require users to wear eye protection. As you know, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires FDA-compliant eyewear to be worn during a session in any device that emits UV light – such as sunbeds and booths. The eyewear is expected to block light in the spectrum between 200-550nm (FDA 21 CFR 1040.20). Red light is a totally different spectrum from UV, ranging from 600-670nm, with low-infrared stim light around 800nm.

If eyewear is not required, why wear it? Most red-light units emit incredibly bright light, and exposure to unprotected eyes is not advisable, even with eyelids closed. On Ergoline's website, info on the Beauty Angel unit says, "The lamps in the Beauty Angel emit light primarily in the 600-700nm range.

to make the red-light experience the most comfortable and relaxing.

"Our staff has used red light beds and we found the light way too bright, regardless of what eye protection we wore," says Jackie DeWald, Office Manager for Eye Pro, Inc. "We invented Wink-Ease Dark, which is FDA-compliant, extremely dark disposable eyewear that allows the user to shape it to fit their eye, and allows the maximum eye area to receive red light."

What do successful salons offer with their red light? Alica Valencikova, owner of Glo Tanning Lounge in Blakeslee, PA, tells her guests that red-light eye protection is critical for their vision safety. "I always stress 'safety first,'" Alica says.

Jasa Wolfrey, owner of 2 Suns Salon in Stafford, VA finds that the cooling fans in their stand-up red light unit can dry eyes, so she finds red light eye protection very

**Want to try eyewear made specifically for red light? Email Brenda@WinkEase.com and mention IST Red Light and we will send you samples!**

The Beauty Angel does not emit UV light. The light is very bright in nature. Therefore, we recommend the use of protective eyewear. No one should stare directly at the lamps or conduct any strenuous activities such as reading while exposed to this light. Salon operators should always mention the potential need for protective eyewear prior to each session."

RubyLux, another manufacturer of red-light units, also recommends eye protection. In addition to protecting the eyes, they also write, "People with certain medical conditions are more likely to react to light. Bright or flashing lights can trigger migraine headaches or seizures in susceptible people, for example."

Robert Urfer, owner of Lucas Products, is the largest supplier of red-light eye protection. "All our goggle lenses are green, the opposite side of the color spectrum from the red in red light. They do a great job of minimizing the bright light," Urfer states.

Chris Shaffer, Vice President of Sales for New Sunshine, manufacturers of Australian Gold, Swedish Beauty and California Tan, recommends wearing black Peepers goggles

valuable. "I give a pair of Wink-Ease Dark to each first-time guest. After that, they can buy goggles or Wink-Ease Dark," Wolfrey says.

"My eyes cannot take red light," states Rhonda Massey Shaffer Culligan, owner of Body Heat Tanning in Coral Gables, FL. "I have to wear red-light eyewear and recommend it to all my guests!"

Joe Melton, owner of Ultimate Tanz in Holdrege, NE says, "I always require eye protection, regardless of the laws. Politicians are not scientists and it's not their checkbooks at risk in a lawsuit!"

Finally, Chantal Beare, owner of the Tanning Studio in Mission, BC adds, "We make eyewear mandatory. We sell Peepers, Glamour Eyes and Wink-Ease Dark for red light use. No eyewear, no session in my Beauty Angel!" ■



### About the Author:

Tanning industry veteran Brenda Fishbaugh is president of Eye Pro, Inc., makers of disposable eyewear. She travels extensively training

salons on the effects of UV light on vision.

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