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South Carolina
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Board of Cosmetology



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As of May 23, 2025, the below Regulation changes will go into effect.

Regulation 35-5.1. Licensure Applications (New – Pages 245-246)

All applications for licensure, including initial licensure, endorsement licensure, renewal and reinstatement licensure, must be accompanied with a current 2x2 passport-style photograph that will be affixed to the license issued.

- Applicants and licensees may refer to [US Department of State](#) for passport style tips.
- Please submit 2x2 separately in [Document Submission](#) under “**Licensee Photo**”
 - In the alternative, applicants and licensees may grant the Department permission to obtain and use the applicant’s photograph on file with the [South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles](#) if available.

Regulation 35-13 Endorsement Application (Change – Pages 238-239)

Licensure by Endorsement requires the applicant to be in good standing and actively licensed in another state and meet **one** of the following:

- [National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology \(NIC\)](#) theory and practical examination, **or**
- Actively licensed, for at least two (2) years, in another state **and** completed four (4) hours of [Board-approved Continuing Education](#).
 - Upon completion of the continuing education course, you will need to request a certificate of completion from the CE Provider. A copy of the certificate should be included with the application.

Regulation 35-20 (Change – Pages 239-245)

35-20 (O) Neck Strips.

Licensees and students must use disposable neck strips or clean towels to keep the protective covering from coming in direct contact with a patron’s neck. Protective coverings (capes) must be properly laundered after chemical treatments on a patron.

35-20 (P) Implements, Products and Procedures

(6) The use of any product, preparation, device or procedure that cuts, destroys, or alters living tissue is strictly prohibited. Products, preparations, devices, machines, or implements used in providing skin care to beautify the surface of the skin must be over-the-counter, non-prescriptive, and externally applied to the epidermis; however, devices, machines, or implements intended to pierce or puncture the superficial surface of the skin must not penetrate to a depth greater than 1.4 mm. Cosmetologists and estheticians may utilize FDA cleared or approved non-prescriptive, over-the-counter electric medical devices and machines that do not cut, destroy, or alter living tissue, only if the device is approved for general use and is used solely for esthetic purposes. Documentation regarding electric devices and machines, including information regarding any FDA clearance or approval and FDA classification, must be maintained on the licensed premises and be available for review by Board inspectors or investigators. Exfoliation treatments, whether manual, mechanical,

or chemical, should only remove the non-living surface epidermal skin cells, and must not remove cells beyond the basal layer of the epidermis, also known as the stratum germinativum. In addition, peels or chemical exfoliants must not have a pH level, either individually or in combination, of less than 2.5.

35-20 (7) Roll on wax must be single-use only and disposed of after each use.

35-20 (8) Ultraviolet (UV) Sterilizers or light boxes are prohibited unless used for storage of disinfected implements. They are not acceptable infection control devices.

Emergency Regulation 35-3(C) (*Expired*)

The SC Board of Cosmetology filed an Emergency Regulation on August 12, 2024 to increase the esthetic curriculum hours from 450 to 600 due the [U.S. Department of Education 34 C.F.R. § 668.14\(b\)\(26\)](#). The Emergency Regulation has expired and the Board can no longer approve the 600-hour curriculum set forth in the Emergency Regulation. All current schools that are currently teaching 600-hours, may continue to do so however, schools requesting to implement an esthetics program, will only be approved at the current Regulation curriculum. For curriculum requirements, please see [Regulation 35-3\(C\)](#).

Licensees and applicants may refer to the [SC State Register](#) for review and updates.

Tracy Adams,
Board Executive