

California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative

Thank you for Washington's leadership in banning cancer-causing chemicals in personal care products and cosmetics.

The California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (CHNSC) strongly supports the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This rule is a critical step in making products used on our skin, in our hair, and that get flushed down the drain safer.

Our organization strongly supports this rule for many reasons, but especially because formaldehyde can cause cancer, harm brain function, increase the risk of asthma, irritate eyes and skin, and impact fish. These chemicals have no place in the products we use on our bodies every day.

Licensed manicurists are often exposed to these harmful chemicals through the cosmetics and nail polish products they use for their services. Studies have shown the harmful effects on licensed manicurists and their children, where they experience reproductive or respiratory complications and skin or cognitive impairments, respectively.

Specifically, we support:

The ban on the list of 28 formaldehyde releasers will take effect on January 1, 2027;

The definition of intentionally added, which will ensure all formaldehyde releasers added to the final product, the manufacturing of the product or is an ingredient in the final product will be covered; and,

The strong enforcement provisions that clearly state there will be an assumption that formaldehyde or a restricted formaldehyde releaser, or both were intentionally added if formaldehyde is found during sampling.

Please finalize this draft rule that bans all formaldehyde releasers and ensures strong enforcement.

Sincerely,
Mary Nguyen
Policy and Research Manager
CA Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative