

PUBLIC NOTICE

On September 12, 2003, the Board of Barber and Cosmetology published the new Barber and Cosmetology regulations in the *D.C. Register*. The Board amended the rules regulating the practice requirements and licensure requirements of all classes of barbers, cosmetologists, and specialty cosmetologists to reflect changes in the law made by the D.C. Council and changes in the profession.

The new rules are located at 50 DCR 7699 and applicants and licensees may obtain a copy from Pearson VUE ([www.pearsonvue.com](http://www.pearsonvue.com)), view and/or photocopy the rules at the D.C. Public Library, or obtain a copy of the rules from the Office of Documents and Administrative Issuances ((202) 727-5090). In this rulemaking the Board deleted 17 DCMR Chapter 38, 22 DCMR Chapter 8, and 22 DCMR Chapter 9 and amended 17 DCMR Chapter 33 and 17 DCMR Chapter 37.

Changes the Barber and Cosmetology regulations include:

- The Board consolidated the Barber and Cosmetology rules into one Chapter of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations --17 DCMR Chapter 37. Disciplinary procedures and practices applicable to barbers, cosmetologists, and specialty cosmetologists appear in both 17 DCMR Chapter 37 and 17 DCMR Chapter 33.
- License categories – The Board added licenses for electrologists and braiders; cosmetologists will not be able to identify themselves as a specialty cosmetologist unless they have passed the examination for that specialty cosmetology practice. Electrologists (including cosmetologists that offer electrology) have additional facilities and equipment requirements.
- Licensed Barbers may become licensed Cosmetologists and licensed Cosmetologists may become licensed Barbers by applying to the Board and, prior to sitting for either the Barber Operator or Cosmetology Operator examination, taking additional pre-licensure education courses in either the Barber or the Cosmetology training program, whichever program is applicable. The Board shall give the licensee up to 1000 hours of credit for courses previously covered in his or her Barber or Cosmetology training course, whichever is applicable.
- Time limited waiver of examination for obtaining licensure in certain license categories – Licensees may obtain certain operator, manager, and instructor licenses with a waiver of the examination if the licensee meets certain criteria and applies for the license no later than September 11, 2005. In addition, persons practicing braiding and electrology prior to the implementation of the new rules must apply for licensure no later than September 11, 2005 in order to be exempt from the education and examination requirements for licensure. Electrologists and braiders practicing without a license on or after September 12, 2003 may be subject to disciplinary action if they continue to practice without a license.

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- Waiver and reciprocity rules – licensees from other jurisdictions may be eligible for licensure by reciprocity or waiver if the licensure requirements of the jurisdiction upon which license they are relying for admission to practice barbering or cosmetology in the District is equal to or greater than the District’s requirements and that jurisdiction admits District licensees by reciprocity or waiver.
- Apprenticeship Program - As an alternative to the education requirement for the barber operator and cosmetology operator license categories, persons may enter the apprenticeship program, which requires a prospective licensee to complete 500 hours of classroom instruction and two thousand (2000) hours of work experience prior to sitting for the barber operator or cosmetology operator examination.
- Facilities and equipment requirements – facility and equipment requirements have been updated for the first time in nearly forty years for practitioners and cosmetology schools. In addition, the Board has, like neighboring jurisdictions, decided to ban the use of MMA (methyl methacrylate) in the barbering and cosmetology practices.
- Advertising, service, and pricing rules – the Board updated the rules regulating advertising, pricing, and service requirements to reflect the District’s anti-discrimination legislation. In addition, in order to avoid misleading advertising, facilities advertising as spas will have to offer traditional spa services on the premises.
- The Educational Licensure Commission must approve schools offering barber and cosmetology pre-licensure educational programs.
- The Board updated and expanded the definitions section to reflect the changes in the regulations.

Licensees are responsible for complying with the new rules and should obtain a copy as soon as practicable. Questions about the rules should be in writing and mailed to the Board at the following address:

The Board of Barber and Cosmetology  
c/o Vivian Martin  
941 N. Capitol Street  
Suite 7200  
Washington, D.C. 20002