



IFPA Members Update: Product Making, Self Employment Income Support Scheme, and Lockdown Easing

Product Making Guidance

We know that many of you are using lockdown to hone your product making skills by formulating bespoke products for your clients. Some members have asked for guidance about making products, both for clients and for the general public. Making products for the general public, as well as making cosmetic and general products for clients, is a more complex area than making bespoke products for clients in a one-to-one relationship. Fear not though, if you are considering product making on a bigger scale then help is at hand!

To answer commonly asked questions, Ray Gransby of the Aromatherapy Trade Council, (<https://www.a-t-c.org.uk>), has kindly given us two guidance sheets (attached). One is a summary - so easier to digest - and the other goes into greater depth about the issues you need to consider if you are preparing to move into the realm of product making.

The guidance covers a range of topics. Firstly, Ray explains how aromatherapists are exempt from the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 if formulating certain products as part of usual clinical practice. Importantly, he also explains the types of products you might make for clients which are not exempt from these regulations. The guidance also includes an explanation of the differences between products classified as 'cosmetic' and general products. Medicinal claims, product labelling and the implications of Brexit are also covered. Additionally, he has provided lots of useful links to specific guidance and relevant legislation.

We recommend that you read the guidance slowly and carefully. It might feel a little overwhelming, but if you take it one step at a time you should find all the information you need. You might have questions! If that is the case, please contact Ray direct at the ATC: <https://www.a-t-c.org.uk/contact/> . Their website is also an excellent source of information.

Self Employment Income Support Scheme

If you have not applied for the UK government's financial support package for self-employed people, or if you are unsure if you are eligible, the HMRC is running a series of webinars where you can find out what the scheme is for, whether you are eligible and how to apply:-

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/4081320498512977155?source=May-HMRC-DCS-SEISS-SE-1>

You might also want to check out their pre-recorded webinars, available on YouTube: -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPOP9HmrWol&list=PL8EcnheDt1zhTsyhT9ak3xiXnmlvbHJJV&index=8>

UK Government Recovery Strategy (England)

As reported last week, it is unclear when professionals such as aromatherapists will be permitted to return to face-to-face client work. Private practising therapists are not specifically mentioned in the government's Recovery Strategy, however, we have now learnt that '*beauty and nail salons*' plus '*spas and massage parlours*' are included in the category of businesses which may be permitted to return to work from July, assuming that a series of targets regarding COVID-19 infection rates and others are met. Although this sounds like aromatherapists might actually be permitted to return to work from July, we feel that further clarification is needed, as it is not totally clear if this is the case. We have, therefore, written to the government minister responsible to request further clarification on how these easing measures might specifically affect aromatherapists and massage therapists. We will, of course, update you if we receive a reply, or reliable guidance from other sources.

More information on the recovery plan:-

COVID-19 Roadmap Taskforces

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-roadmap-taskforces/covid-19-roadmap-taskforces?fbclid=IwAR1Vi8o3o1XVPQIOwBFdgptcAD3VI9ISqvyDNXBglCAUIEtK2auK4y2JORU>

UK Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>

Keep safe and well,

IFPA Board of Trustees and Office Team

20th May 2020