

Nottinghamshire County Council Act 1985 (Part IV)
Licensing of Premises for Massage and/or Special Treatments

Part 2 – Conditions applicable to Establishments offering Sauna, Steam Rooms and/or Spa Pool Treatments

In these conditions:

“Council” or “Local Authority” means the Local Authority who may issue a massage and special treatments licence.

“Establishment” means and includes any premises used or represented as being or intended to be used for the reception or treatment of persons requiring massage or special treatment.

“Licence Holder” means the holder of this Licence issued by the Council under Part IV of the Nottinghamshire County Council Act who is responsible for compliance with these conditions

“Premises” means the premises identified in the body of this licence as the place from which the Licence Holder operates.

“Sauna” means an insulated enclosure usually made of wood, together with heat generating equipment usually in the form of a heat-generating stove. Benches are provided within the sauna enclosure. Saunas provide a dry heat and the temperature may range from 85°C to 100°C for up to a 10 minute treatment.

“Spa Pool” means a pool full of warm water at approximately body temperature, designed for sitting in rather than swimming. It has jets of water, air bubbles or combination of both to provide a warm water massage. This includes jacuzzi and hot tubs in communal areas.

“Steam Room” means an enclosure made of an impervious material and steam generating equipment. They are designed to operate at temperatures of up to 50°C regulated by a thermostat with relative humidity of 80 to 100%. They produce a wet humid heat and are intended for indoor use. The treatment usually lasts between 6 and 12 minutes.

“User(s) or Client(s)” means any person receiving the massage or special treatment provided or operated by the Licence Holder.

Age

1. The Licence Holder shall ensure no person under the age of 16 is permitted to use the Sauna or Steam Room facilities alone. Persons aged 14 or 15 years are permitted to use the Sauna or Steam Room if accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Facilities

2. Guidelines on the safe use of the Sauna, Steam Room and/or Spa Pool shall be clearly displayed upon the entrance to the Sauna and/or Steam Room or near each unit.
3. Sauna/Steam Rooms shall have:
 - a) Adequate lighting to enable users to enter and exit safely
 - b) High and low level vents to provide adequate ventilation
 - c) A glazed panel to allow safe access and egress by Clients and supervising staff
 - d) A clock or timer visible to users from within the Sauna/Steam Room in order to monitor time elapsed in the Sauna and/or Steam Room facility
 - e) A thermometer indicating the temperature inside the sauna and/or steam room
4. Shower facilities shall be provided close to the Sauna, Steam Room and/or Spa Pool and Clients shall be advised to shower before entering.
5. A supply of fresh drinking water shall be available close to the Sauna and/or Steam Room, free of charge.
6. The temperature control device shall not be accessible to users of the Sauna and/or Steam Room.
7. Where the Sauna has hot coals, the coals shall be suitably protected by a guard rail or barrier that extends at least 100mm above the height of the coals.
8. There shall be a non-verbal alarm system in the facility linked to a manned reception area for summoning help when users are left unattended. The alarm shall continue to sound until it is manually switched to the 'off' position in order to silence it. The non-verbal alarm system shall be fitted within easy reach of a person using the equipment
9. The alarm system shall be tested daily when the Sauna, Steam Room and/or Spa Pool is available for use and the Licence Holder shall ensure records are maintained to show these checks are carried out by a competent person.
10. Clients shall be made aware of the alarm mechanism and how to use it.

Procedures

11. The Licence Holder shall have a written policy detailing the action to be taken in the event of the alarm system being activated. This shall be communicated to all relevant Operators.
12. The surface of the Sauna and/or Steam Room shall be cleaned and disinfected each day in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and with cleaning materials specified by the manufacturer.
13. The Licence Holder shall provide a procedure whereby all Steam Rooms are checked on a half hourly basis for cleanliness and for state of health of the user e.g. signs of fainting.

Spa Pool Management

14. Regular testing of the Spa Pool water shall be carried out by or on behalf of the Licence Holder to confirm that the water is chemically and bacteriologically within acceptable limits.
15. Records showing the pH and disinfectant levels (Chlorine, Bromine etc) shall be retained at the Establishment and be available to a Local Authority Officer upon request.
16. The Licence Holder must have a written policy of action to be taken in the event of an unsatisfactory microbiological result or other health concerns associated with use of the pool.
17. The Licence Holder shall have a written procedure detailing steps taken to ensure the maximum bather load for the facility is not exceeded.
18. The Spa Pool shall be emptied and refilled at regular intervals in accordance with the manufacturer's guidance and usage but in any event at least every week.
19. The water circulation system shall be in operation for a minimum of three hours per day.
20. Water jets shall be operated for a minimum of one hour per day.
21. The pool shall be drained and refilled if left unused for 5 days or more.