

AZBOC Arizona State Board of Cosmetology

Ear Candling or Coning

Leave the candling to eggs and wine!

1. Federal Drug Administration (FDA) (CDRH), classifies the *ear candle as a Class III device* which is specific to medical use however no actual manufacturer or production found of the device itself has been approved. 2007
2. Licensees within the jurisdiction of The Arizona State Board of Cosmetology (AZBOC) would be in violation for using procedures not approved by the FDA and by using Class III devices which are beyond their scope of practice. R4-10-112 (T) (3) the establishment shall comply with federal and state requirements and R4-10-112 (M) (2) Product shall be used only in a manner approved by the FDA.
3. Everything must be done for "cosmetic purposes" pursuant to ARS 32-501 (i.e., for purposes of beautification). Our research of ear candling shows that the purpose is to remove wax and debris from the ear canal which is not for beautifying.
4. It is not part of any AZBOC licensed school curriculum. Cosmetology schools do not teach maintaining ear health.
5. From a health stand point we have reference to several studies which indicate possible damage and harm caused by the device and procedure. There are also necessary medical assessments which our licensees are not qualified to do.

The Practice or device is clearly not used by traditional medicine practitioners and seemingly it would be a violation of the FDA because the devices are unapproved. The stated purpose of candling is wax removal which is in conflict with the purpose of wax in the ear. Also many studies show that the candle fails to remove wax. Studies also indicate failure to make appropriate medical assessments may result in serious harm to individuals.

A few links are below:

www.fda.gov

<http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/devadvice/313.html>

http://www.fda.gov/ora/fiars/ora_import_ia7701.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ear_candling

<http://altmedicine.about.com/cs/govtregulation/a/EarCandle.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earwax>

<http://www.quackwatch.org/01QuackeryRelatedTopics/candling.html> (pg 3 dangers reported)

Malshet V. Ear Candles: FDA's Regulatory Action and Current Position. *American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Bulletin*, June 2003.