

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **DIY DENTISTS AT RISK WITH DENTAL APPLIANCES, WARNS MDDUS**

Dentists are being warned that if they do any of their own laboratory work, they must now comply with new legislation.

The UK-wide medical defence organisation MDDUS has issued the reminder following recent changes to the Medical Devices Directive 93/42/EC affecting the provision and manufacture of dental appliances.

Rachael Bell, dental adviser, warns: "In these budget conscious times some practitioners are making their own bleaching trays, doing small denture repairs or making orthodontic retainers for patients.

"However the rules have now changed and even in making simple appliances, dentists are covered by the same rules as dental labs."

Bell adds: "As legislation goes, the new Directive does not make for light bed time reading. However practitioners need to be aware of it as the amendments are of relevance to all dentists and the General Dental Council are reminding dentists of their requirement to be familiar with and comply with all legislation affecting dental practice."

MDDUS advises that the new regulations mean that anyone providing a dental appliance - whether made by a laboratory or themselves - needs to ensure that the patients are made aware that they can request a statement of manufacture.

"If the work was made by a lab they should be able to provide you with a statement; if you made the work yourself you have to provide the patient with one," advises Bell.

The dental practitioner must also register with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), and ensure that they comply with all the MHRA requirements as a manufacturer - even if all they make are a few bleaching splints or do the occasional denture repair.

Bell concludes: "The Department of Health has made it clear that any failures to comply with the directives are punishable as criminal offences.

So even if you see yourself as 'small fry' in terms of making dental appliances, MDDUS strongly advises that you comply with the new legislation."

For helpful advice members should check the GDC website:

<http://www.gdc-uk.org/Current+registrant/Standards+for+Dental+Professionals/>

Ends

For further information contact Colin Calder on 0141 616 2677 or 07850 510881.

**Note to editors**

MDDUS (Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland) is a medical defence organisation providing access to professional indemnity and expert medico- and dento-legal advice for doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals throughout the UK.

For further information on MDDUS go to [www.mddus.com](http://www.mddus.com).