Requirements for the Tattoo/Body Art Industry

Sterilisation

1. Reusable instruments/equipment used to penetrate a person’s skin MUST be sterilised using a bench-top steriliser that is maintained in accordance with AS 2182-1998

2. There MUST be at least one person present during sterilising who is adequately trained in the operation of the steriliser

3. Instruments/equipment MUST:
   - Be thoroughly cleaned before they are sterilised
   - Be dry when they are removed from the steriliser
   - Remain packaged until needed for use

4. The steriliser MUST be serviced annually, otherwise a Class 5 or 6 indicator must be placed in every load

5. Sterilisation records (e.g. time, temperature, pressure, the number and type of items sterilised, operator and date) MUST be kept for at least 12 months

Council requirements

1. Contact your local council to ensure you can meet their planning and building requirements

2. Councils require walls, floors and ceilings to be smooth and impervious for easy cleaning

3. Your skin penetration practice MUST be registered with the local council

Warning

Failure to meet the requirements of the Public Health Regulation 2012 may result in an on-the-spot fine, closure of some or all of your business or prosecution

Further information

Contact your local council or public health unit (1300 066 055) for additional information on the health requirements of the tattoo/body art industry.

NSW Health information:

Sterile instruments/equipment

All reusable articles used to penetrate a person’s skin (such as body piercing equipment) MUST be sterilised.
What are the health requirements for tattoo/body art businesses?

1. If a tattoo/body art practitioner conducts a procedure that involves skin penetration then they MUST comply with the Public Health Regulation 2012.

2. Procedures that involve ‘Skin Penetration’ include:
   - Tattooing
   - Body piercing (ear, nose, tongue and all other areas of the body)
   - Scarification
   - Body implants

Hygiene requirements

Premises MUST:

1. Be clean, hygienic and have a waste disposal bin
2. Have a hand-wash basin with:
   - Clean, warm, potable water
   - Liquid soap (or an alcohol based hand cleaner)
   - Single-use towels (or an automatic hand dryer)
3. Have a separate sink with warm water for cleaning equipment
4. Have available
   - Disposable gloves
   - Clean linen
   - Gowns or aprons

Tattooist/body artists MUST:

1. Wear protective equipment
   - Gloves MUST be worn once, then placed in the waste bin immediately after completing the procedure
   - A clean gown or apron MUST be worn

Use of inks/pigments

1. Single use containers (or a single use applicator) MUST be used to decant inks and pigments

2. There have been outbreaks of disease associated with contaminated inks. Buy inks from a reputable supplier and do not dilute them with unsterile water

Sterile needles

1. All needles MUST only be used once
2. If needles are used, there MUST be an adequate supply of sterile disposable needles
3. The needles MUST be disposed of into a sharps container that complies with AS 4031-1992

Beware of what you share

Infectious diseases such as hepatitis B and hepatitis C can be spread when instruments/equipment have not been correctly sterilised and re-used.

Needles are difficult to sterilise, which is why they MUST be used only once then immediately placed in an appropriate sharps container.

Tattooist/body artists should be immunised against hepatitis B.