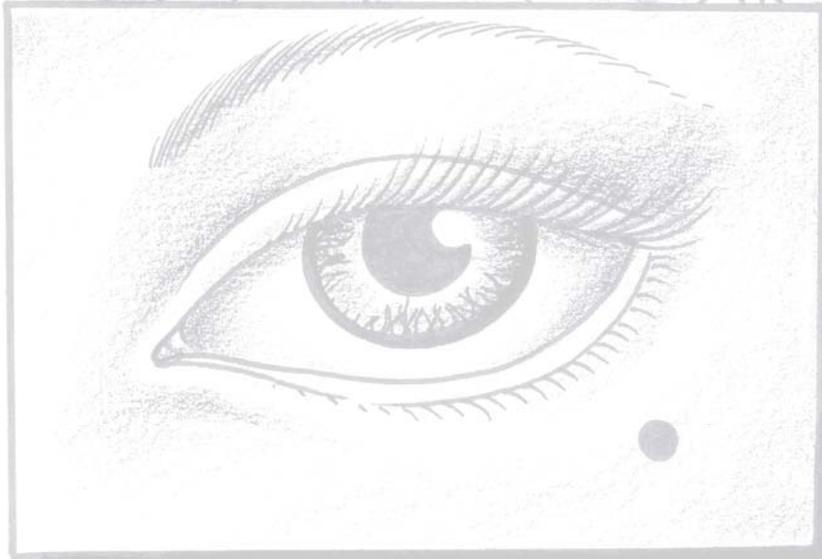


Body Arts Practitioner's Guide



FIP 2007

County of San Diego
Department of Environmental Health and Quality
Food and Housing Division
www.sdcountybodyart.org
(858) 505-6900



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Food and Housing Division



The mission of the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health and Quality (DEHQ) is:

Protecting the environment and enhancing the public health by preventing disease, promoting environmental responsibility and, when necessary, enforcing environmental and public health laws.

One of the ways the Department prevents disease is by regulating body art practitioners who engage in tattooing, body piercing and the application of permanent cosmetics. To make sure that health code standards are being met, the Department conducts routine inspections in more than 100 DEHQ permitted body art facilities in San Diego County.

In addition to its regulatory functions, the Department promotes health and safety education by meeting with practitioners to gain input for the Body Art Safety Program and by partnering with professional organizations to sponsor educational seminars and discussion forums for the County's registered body art practitioners.

This guide has been developed to provide you, the body arts practitioner, with:

- A basic understanding of how to prevent infections and allergic reactions
- Information regarding the body art inspection process
- An explanation of the Department's Body Art Inspection Report

The intent of this guide is to assist you in evaluating your risk management and safety procedure. It is designed to help you perform body art procedures in a safe and compliant manner.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department of Environmental Health and Quality would like to thank:

Philip Buchanan, owner of Avalon II, for the cover art work

Sue Church of the International Institute of Permanent Cosmetics, for the photographs of the permanent cosmetics machine showing pigment contamination

All of the San Diego County practitioners and facilities that are seen throughout this guide

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PREVENTING INFECTIONS AND ALLERGIC REACTIONS

Risk Factors for Infection and Allergic Reactions

When skin is pierced during a body art procedure there is a risk of infection or allergic reaction. Infection can occur when microorganisms are introduced into new tattoos or body piercings. Pathogens can be transmitted directly by contact between two people, or indirectly by contact with an object that is contaminated with pathogens. Microorganisms normally found on the surface of the skin can also cause infection if they are introduced into the skin during a body art procedure. Allergic reactions can occur if a client is sensitive to metals, inks, latex or chemicals.

Your actions as a body art practitioner may determine if your clients will get an infection or have an allergic reaction.

Risk factors for infection from a body art procedure include:

- Contaminated instruments and surfaces
- Direct contact with blood
- The number of microorganisms on the skin at the site of the procedure
- Poor practitioner health and hygiene
- Unknown client allergies to latex, metals, inks or chemicals
- Unprotected fresh tattoos and body piercings
- Improper care of tattoos and body piercings during the healing process

Your county health inspector will focus on the above risk factors when conducting inspections of your shop, and when observing the practices you use during a body art procedure. County health inspectors are Environmental Health Specialists (EHS) who have been trained in infection prevention and control and can discuss methods for eliminating unsafe conditions or practices.

Tattoo Ink Concerns

On August 23, 2012, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported that tattoo inks and the pigments used to color them can become contaminated by bacteria, mold and fungus. The most common bacteria responsible for infection is called *Mycobacterium chelonae*. Infection with *Mycobacterium chelonae* can cause a rash or raised red bumps in a tattooed area within a couple of weeks of receiving a tattoo. The infection can be difficult to diagnose and may be mistaken for an “allergic” reaction. *Mycobacterium chelonae* can also cause lung disease, joint infection, eye problems, and other organ infections, and can require treatment lasting six months or more.

Strategies for Preventing Infection and Allergic Reactions

The following is a list of measures you can take to lower the risks for infections and allergic reactions:

- Follow your shop’s Infection Prevention and Control Plan (IPCP) 100% of the time
- Complete annual training on your shop’s IPCP
- Complete annual bloodborne pathogens training

PREVENTING INFECTIONS AND ALLERGIC REACTIONS

- Observe proper health and hygiene practices
- Use only sterilized water for rinsing or dilution of inks. *Check with your autoclave manufacturer for directions on sterilizing water in your unit.*
- Review the client's medical history and ask questions before beginning a procedure
- Provide written and verbal aftercare instructions to your clients
- Answer any questions your client may have about the procedure

Minimizing Risk of Infection from Contaminated Ink

Companies and individuals, who manufacture or market cosmetics, including inks, have a legal responsibility to ensure the safety of their products. Tattoo artists can help to minimize the risk of infection by only using inks that have been processed to be free from harmful microorganisms. Tattoo and Permanent Cosmetic Technicians should only purchase ink from manufacturers who provide information on how they ensure that their product is not contaminated. This information should include various steps taken by the manufacturer such as carefully choosing the inks ingredients, using hygienic processing techniques, using preservatives to prevent the growth of microorganisms, validating post-manufacture processing and testing to ensure safety, or a combination of these and/or other approaches. Use of sterile water to dilute inks helps to ensure that bacteria are not introduced during the dilution process. (Unboiled tap, bottled, distilled, and filtered water are not sterile and should not be used to dilute inks.)

You have a share of the responsibility for making sure your client does not get an infection or have an allergic reaction from the body art procedure you perform. Following your shop's Infection Prevention and Control Plan will also protect you by minimizing your exposure to bloodborne pathogens, and will help you ensure a good outcome for your client.

UNDERSTANDING THE BODY ART INSPECTION REPORT

When conducting an inspection, the Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) will use the official Body Art Inspection Report to inspect your shop and to evaluate the procedures you use when performing body art procedures. At the completion of the inspection, the EHS will review the results of the inspection and the actions required to correct any violations. You should keep a copy of your inspection report in your own file, and provide a copy of your report to the owner of the shop for filing with the facility inspection reports.

The Environmental Health Specialist will work with you to gain voluntary compliance whenever possible. **It is important, however, to realize that you must immediately cease any action and correct any condition that may spread bloodborne pathogens such as hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).**

Violations of the California Health and Safety Code and the San Diego County Body Art Ordinance will be noted on your Body Art Inspection Report. For example, failure to obtain and review a client's medical questionnaire is a violation because this could result in you not taking the necessary measures to ensure a safe and positive outcome. If you expose a client who is allergic to latex, the person could go into anaphylactic shock. If you tattoo an area where a client has had herpes in the past, there is a possibility of activating the herpes virus and causing herpes to erupt throughout the area being tattooed. To prevent this from happening, you should advise your client to seek medical advice before tattooing the area.

Another example of a violation is malfunctioning sterilization equipment, or procedure errors that result in the failure of the sterilization process. Your sterilization monitoring program must include a written log that includes results for a combination of biological, chemical and mechanical indicators. When the sterilization process results in a failure of any of these indicators, the equipment must be repackaged and sterilized. Body art may not be performed in the shop unless in-house sterilization can be assured, or unless purchased pre-sterilized needles and equipment are used.

Reports for all inspections conducted in the facility should be periodically reviewed by the owner and practitioners to evaluate improvements and to look for repeat violations. Trends in the occurrence of violations can identify specific training needs, procedural changes, or equipment improvements necessary to reduce the risk of causing infection and illness in your clients.

If you are an owner, you are responsible for developing, implementing, and maintaining a written Infection Prevention and Control Plan ((IPCP) and for ensuring the IPCP is followed by everyone. It is also your responsibility to make sure your shop is clean, has properly functioning equipment, and is well supplied and that all practitioners working are properly registered.

If your facility has a history of recurring violations, you may be issued a notice to appear for an administrative hearing. The administrative hearing could result in an individual practitioner, or the facility as a whole, being placed on an improvement plan. Your Health Permit may be suspended or revoked for more serious violations of the code, continued noncompliance, or interference in the performance of the duties of the Environmental Health Specialist.

The rest of this section of the guide provides an explanation of the main sections of the Body Art Inspection Report. This information is intended to be a resource to help you meet the requirements of the San Diego County Body Art Ordinance and the California Health and Safety Code (Safe Body Art Act).

UNDERSTANDING THE BODY ART INSPECTION REPORT

Sample Body Art Inspection Report



Body Art Inspection Report
 County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health
 P.O. Box 129261, San Diego, CA 92112-9261
 (858) 505-6900 (800) 253-9933 www.sdcdeh.org

Inspection Date: _____

Permit Number: _____

Permit Type: _____

Facility/Event Name	Address	City	Zip Code	# of Workstations

Permit Owner/Booth Name	Booth #	Permit Exp. Date	Inspection Type	Total Time

RISK FACTORS AND INTERVENTIONS

Risk factors are improper practices or procedures identified as contributing factors of cross-contamination. Interventions are control measures to prevent cross-contamination and transfer of pathogens from one person to another. Items marked with an asterisk * may also have specific requirements for temporary events.

In = In compliance Out = Out of compliance NO = Not observed NA = Not applicable COS = Corrected on site

CLEANING AND STERILIZATION				MAJ	MN	COS
In/Out	NA/NO	Item	OUT	OUT	COS	
In/Out	NA/NO	1. Autoclave effective - passed integrator test	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	2. Process of cleaning, labeling, packaging, and sterilizing items appropriate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	3. Autoclave loaded correctly / packages allowed to dry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	4. Integrators used / monthly spore test / log maintained	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	5. Decontamination / sanitation area separate and supplied appropriately	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	6. Invoices and log kept for disposable, pre-sterilized equipment/ backup supplies adequate*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	7. Sharps containers supplied, labeled, used and disposed of appropriately*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	8. Jewelry, tattoo and piercing equipment - storage and use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PRACTITIONER HEALTH AND HYGIENE						
In/Out	NA/NO	9. No eating, drinking or smoking - clean clothes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	10. Hands washed effectively and timely	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	11. Handwashing facilities adequately supplied and accessible/warm potable water*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	12. Hepatitis B vaccination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	13. Bloodborne pathogen (BBP) training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	14. Appropriate personal protective equipment available and used	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CUSTOMERS AND CLIENTS						
In/Out	NA/NO	15. Branding is completed with no other customers in procedure area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	16. No body art procedure shall be done on skin with a rash, pimples, boils, infections, or any evidence of unhealthy conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	17. Customers are eighteen (18) years of age or older	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	18. Skin adequately prepared for procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	19. Client records approved and available - Consent form & questionnaire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CUSTOMERS AND CLIENTS (cont.)				MAJ	MN	COS
In/Out	NA/NO	20. Appropriate aftercare instructions given to client; Complaints of infections reported to DEH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TATTOO AND PERMANENT COSMETICS MACHINE SAFETY AND SANITATION						
In/Out	NA/NO	21. Safe machine design	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	22. Machines cleaned and disinfected between clients	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	23. Parts replaced between clients - grommets, elastic bands, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PREVENTING CROSS-CONTAMINATION						
In/Out	NA/NO	24. Workstation / procedure area decontaminated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	25. Appropriate chemical disinfectant used Chemical used: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	26. Disinfectant used appropriately/ sufficient contact time provided. Wet contact time provided: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	27. Barriers used and used appropriately*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	28. Products applied to skin are single use / dispensed aseptically	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	29. Storage of inks, pigments, needles, tubes, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	30. Jewelry, inks, needles etc. approved and used	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	31. Cross contamination avoided during all phases of procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BEST BUSINESS PRACTICES						
In/Out	NA/NO	32. Areas separated / no living or sleeping quarters / no animals*; Mobile Units: used exclusively for body art	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	33. Floors, walls, and other surfaces clean and in good repair/ facility free of vermin/ adequate light and ventilation*/ Mobile Units doors kept closed, windows screened	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	34. Workstation, surfaces, including chairs, armrests, etc. in good repair/ trash removed frequently*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	35. Permit / registration and required signs posted* <input type="checkbox"/> Registration Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Health Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	36. IPCP and employee training records present	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In/Out	NA/NO	37. Restrooms available/ stocked*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REG #	PRACTITIONER / ARTIST NAME	BBP TRAINING SOURCE	BBP EXPIRATION DATE	REG #	PRACTITIONER / ARTIST NAME	BBP TRAINING SOURCE	BBP EXPIRATION DATE

OBSERVATIONS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT: NOTICE ISSUED

No Valid Permit No Valid Practitioner Registration Impoundment Plan Review Required Administrative Hearing Closure

THIS REPORT IS AN OFFICIAL NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS. CORRECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE TIME SPECIFIED. AN INSPECTION FEE MAY BE CHARGED IF THE VIOLATIONS STATED ARE NOT CORRECTED BY THE REINSPECTION DATE: _____

Received by (Print): _____	Received by (Signature): _____	Title: _____
Specialist (Print): _____	Specialist (Signature): _____	Phone: _____

DEH: FH-611 (Rev 10/15/13)

Please note that the numbering in this section coincides with the numbering on the body art inspection report.

1. Autoclave effective

Testing your steam autoclave

The Safe Body Art Act requires that your autoclave be tested with a Class 5 Indicator (Integrator) test. Including an Integrator in each load processed gives immediate feedback on whether the parameters of heat, steam penetration and time have been achieved.

MAJOR VIOLATION
Autoclave fails integrator test upon inspection

The integrator test has proven to be a great tool for the Environmental Health Specialist. It allows them to test an autoclave during the course of an inspection.

Factors Affecting Steam Sterilization

To be effective, steam sterilization requires time, contact, temperature, and high pressure.

This means the autoclave must be capable of creating enough pressure and heat to turn water into steam. It also requires needles, needle tubes, and instruments to be packaged and placed in the autoclave in a way that allows steam to contact all the surfaces for an amount of time sufficient to kill all the microorganisms.

The effectiveness of the sterilization process is also dependent upon four factors related to the items to be sterilized.

- The number of microorganisms present
- The type of microorganisms present
- The numbers of cracks and crevices on the item that might shelter microorganisms
- The amount and type of organic matter that could protect the microorganisms

This means sterilization cannot be assured without thorough cleaning to remove all organic or inorganic material remaining on the instruments that could prevent steam from reaching the microorganisms during the sterilization process.

2. Cleaning, Packaging, Sterilization, and Storage

Instrument sterilization is an essential part of any infection control program. The primary rule of infection control in the body art setting is "**Sterilize any instrument that comes into contact with mucous membranes or non-intact skin.**"

Sterilization is a process, not an event. A process cannot be called sterilization unless the process has been shown to be capable of killing high numbers of bacterial spores. Passing a Biological Indicator test is the most definitive way to show that this has been accomplished (See section item 2 under Cleaning, Packaging, Sterilization and Storage for a detailed explanation).



A properly loaded autoclave

MAJOR VIOLATION

Failure to clean and sterilize reusable instruments that come into contact with non-intact skin or mucous

Sterilization is a process intended to kill all microorganisms, including bacterial spores.

Both the State of California and the County of San Diego require the use of steam under pressure (an autoclave) for in-house sterilization in body art shops. The saturated steam produced by the pressure in the autoclave is many times more effective than dry air in delivering heat. Steam is also good at killing microorganisms because it softens any protective outer layer of the microorganism. This allows the inner portions of the microorganism to be coagulated or cooked in a manner similar to cooking egg whites.

Liquid sterilants, such as glutaraldehyde, are not approved for sterilizing tattoo, body piercing or permanent cosmetics instruments because of the adverse effects they can have on people and the environment.

Note: Purchased, pre-sterilized items must have the manufacturer's indication of sterilization on the package.

Methods of Cleaning

There are two general methods of cleaning reusable instruments: machine cleaning and manual cleaning.



Machine cleaning in an ultrasonic cleaner is the recommended method.

Using an ultrasonic cleaner lessens exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials, and it saves time.

When used correctly, ultrasonic cleaners remove organic materials more efficiently and completely than cleaning equipment by hand. Note: For practitioner safety, it is recommended that only cleaners outfitted with drain tubes be used. *Note: Ultrasonic cleaners should have the lid in place when used.*

Manual cleaning should be avoided when possible.

Cleaning instruments by hand requires the use of small brushes to get into cracks and crevices, and may still leave behind ink and organic materials.



Small brushes can also puncture your gloves causing exposure to bloodborne pathogens and other potentially infectious materials.

Regardless of the cleaning method used, all items to be sterilized must be allowed to air dry before packaging.

Packaging instruments for sterilization

In addition to thorough cleaning, instruments must be properly packaged to allow complete steam penetration.

This means hemostats, pliers, and other instruments with hinges must be sterilized in the open position.

Failure to autoclave them in the open position increases the potential that steam will not penetrate the ridges and crevices in the tips of the hemostats. If the steam does not reach all the cracks and crevices of the instrument, it will not be sterilized.



Hemostats packaged in the open position

Sharp objects must be packaged so the packaging is not pierced.

Instruments with packaging that is pierced or allowed to dry outside of the autoclave must be re-packaged and sterilized.

Labeling Packages for Sterilization

All items to be sterilized should be labeled with the following information:

- Contents of package (when contents are not visible through packaging)
- Sterilization date
- Load number
- Initials of person processing the load

3. Autoclave loaded correctly, packages allowed to dry

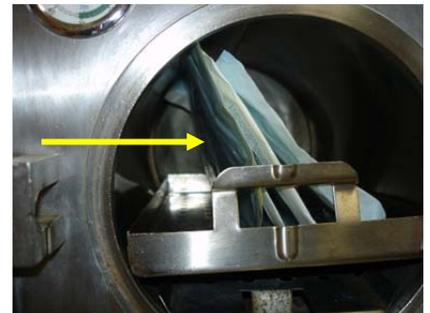
Loading the Autoclave to Ensure Proper Steam Penetration

Proper steam penetration is necessary for an effective sterilization process. Packages should be loaded upright on their sides to help the steam reach all surfaces.

An autoclave should never be overloaded. When an autoclave is overloaded, steam may not penetrate all areas.

Peel packs should be autoclaved on edge with the plastic side next to a paper side so steam can penetrate the packs.

All peel packs must be allowed to dry before handling to avoid small rips or tears which would render the equipment no longer sterile. If you notice abrasions, rips or tears on peel packs protecting your equipment you must rebag and resterilize the equipment.



Example of peel packs properly placed on edge

4. Integrators used / monthly spore test / log maintained

Monitoring the Sterilization Process

As sterilization processes have evolved and become more complex, so have the monitoring systems used to check the process. Consistent monitoring of your sterilization process using a combination of **biological**, **chemical** and **mechanical indicators** is the only way to ensure that you are not exposing your clients and yourself to potential cross-contamination of bloodborne pathogens such as hepatitis B and C from instruments that have been sterilized in your shop.

Biological Indicators (BI)

Biological indicators or spore tests, are made by placing a standardized, viable population of bacterial spores (e.g., *Geobacillus* or *Bacillus* species) into a liquid or onto a paper strip. Two of these samples form a spore test kit. One of the samples is run with a normal load of instruments to be sterilized, the second sample acts as a control, and is not sterilized. Both samples are then tested for growth. Growth in the control but not in the sterilized sample shows the sterilization process worked.

MAJOR VIOLATION

Failure to spore test an autoclave at least once per month, failure to run an integrator test in every autoclave load, or not actively documenting the results of both in a sterilization log monitoring system

Biological indicators are the only way to know if the sterilization process you are using has actually killed the bacteria and spores.

Monitoring monthly with a biological indicator such as *Bacillus stearothermophilis*, commonly referred to as spore testing, is an essential part of an adequate sterilization monitoring system.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO FOOD AND HOUSING DIVISION

Chemical Indicators (CI) are strips, tapes and markings on bags and pouches that change color or physical form after exposure to heat. The most basic, **Class 1 indicators**, found on paper and plastic peel packs, are designed to show that the item has been exposed to a sterilization process and to distinguish between processed and non-processed items. **Class 2 indicators** are designed for specific test procedures. For example, the Class 2 Bowie Dick and Dart indicators test for the presence of air in the steam sterilizing chamber. A positive test would indicate that air has either not been removed during the cycle or has entered the chamber through leaks in the system, and that maintenance must be performed on the autoclave. Other classes of chemical indicators are used for monitoring sterilization, **but only the Class 5 integrating indicator, also called an Integrator, is designed to react to all critical parameters over a specified range of sterilization cycles.**

Class 5 Indicators (Integrators), have had their performance correlated to the performance of a biological indicator (BI) under its labeled conditions for use. Including an Integrator in each load processed is a requirement of the state law and gives immediate feedback on whether the parameters of heat, steam penetration and time have been achieved. Class 5 Integrators are so reliable that they have been approved by the ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11140-1, 2005 Standard as an appropriate process challenge to release any sterilized load that doesn't contain implants. They will also be used by your inspector to check your autoclave during inspections.



Examples of Class 5 Integrators

Remember, however, the “pass” reading of a Chemical Indicator (CI) does not mean that the item or items in the sterilizer load are sterile; it means that the parameters for sterilization that the CI was designed to measure have been met. That is why packaging the items and loading the autoclave must always be done correctly. If an autoclave is not loaded correctly, sterilization may occur in some areas of the autoclave and not in others.

The third method of monitoring the sterilization process is checking the **mechanical indicators** on your autoclave. **Always check the gauges on the autoclave to make sure that the pressure and temperature are correct before you begin timing the process.**

STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR STEAM STERILIZATION

Steam Sterilization (Gravity displacement): Temperature should be 121⁰ C (250⁰ F); Pressure should be 106kPa (15lbs/in²); 30 minutes for packaged items. Or at higher temperature of 132⁰ C (279⁰ F), pressure should be 30 lbs/in²; 15 minutes for packaged items.

Note: Pressure settings (kPa or lbs/in²) may vary slightly depending on the autoclave used. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for your autoclave.

Allow all items to dry before removing them from the autoclave.

Remember:

- Exposure time begins **only after** the autoclave has reached the target temperature.
- Do not overload the autoclave. Leave at least 3 inches between the items and the walls of the autoclave. Overloading alters heat convection and increases the time required to sterilize.

Source: Adopted from Principles and Methods of Sterilization in Health Sciences. JJ Perkins. 1983

Sterilization Log Maintained

You must keep a written log of each load you process in the autoclave. Sterilization logs must be kept on file at the shop for three years, and must contain the following information:

- Date of load
- Load number
- Exposure time and temperature
- Initials of the person processing the load
- Result of the Integrator test
- The result of the Biological Indicator when processed
- Actions taken when the Integrator or Biological Indicator do not pass

Please see log provided in Appendix D.

This log is also available for download on our website at: www.sdcountybodyart.org

5. Decontamination and sanitation area separate and supplied appropriately

Many potential exposures that a practitioner will come across will be in the decontamination and sterilization area (biohazard room, cleaning room) of your body art facility. This is where the dirty equipment is brought to be cleaned and sterilized. This is the reason that this area of the facility must be separated from the procedure area. The public is generally not trained in bloodborne pathogen transmission or health and safety as it relates to body art so the public must not access this area.

Additionally, the decontamination room must be supplied with a sink that has hot and cold water, liquid soap and paper towels in a wall-mounted dispenser. This sink needs to be readily accessible to the practitioner at all times; therefore nothing should be stored in front of or inside this sink. This room must also be supplied with a lined waste container.

The decontamination area is not required when all practitioners in a shop use only single-use, pre-sterilized instruments. However, this is something to consider before going through the plan check process.

6. Invoices and log kept for disposable pre-sterilized equipment, backup supplies adequate

A body art facility that uses disposable, single-use, pre-sterilized instruments must maintain records of purchase, use, and procedures. When documenting how the instrument was used, you will note the procedure including the name of practitioner, client and the procedure date. You must keep these records for at least 90 days.

Mobile facilities units must be stocked with enough equipment for one day's worth of procedures at all times.

7. Sharps containers supplied, labeled, used and disposed of appropriately.

Disposal of Sharps and Contaminated Waste

All sharps **including razors** must be placed into a sharps container immediately after use. You should not leave a razor on the set-up tray while you complete the body art procedure. Carrying sharps to another area or room is not permitted. Your workstation should have a sharps container that can be easily reached.



- The sharps container should be close enough that you can reach it without walking to the sharps container. If you usually sit down when you are breaking down your tattoo machine, your sharps container should be low enough to place items into it without standing up.
- You should never place a sharp into a container that is above your head. If you drop the sharp, it could result in exposure to bloodborne pathogens, or it could puncture your face, eyes, or skin.
- Paper towels, cups, and other materials contaminated with blood during a procedure can be double bagged and discarded as long as there is no liquid capable of dripping out of the bag. Contaminated waste should be placed into a secured dumpster until picked-up by a general trash hauler.

8. Jewelry, tattoo and piercing equipment – storage and use

Jewelry, tattoo and piercing equipment must be sterilized prior to use. Some jewelry is pre-sterilized and this will be indicated on the packaging. All other jewelry must go through a sterilization process.

Sterile packs shall be evaluated and if the integrity of a pack is compromised the pack shall be discarded or reprocessed before use. In body piercing, only clean calipers can be used.

For piercing of the ears, only disposable, single-use, pre-sterilized stud and clasp can be used.

9. No eating, drinking or smoking – clean clothes

Eating, Drinking and Smoking

Eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm, handling contact lenses and other similar activities are strictly prohibited in any area of the shop where exposure to bloodborne pathogens may occur.

This means food and drinks are not allowed at the workstations or in cleaning rooms.

MAJOR VIOLATIONS

Eating, drinking or smoking in the procedure room or in the cleaning room

If you feel you need a cigarette or something to drink, your client may be feeling the same way. Both of you should take a break away from the procedure area.

Personal cleanliness

It is essential for practitioners to practice good personal hygiene. You should make it a practice to shower and put on clean clothes just before going to work.

Ideally, you should put on clean shop clothes once you are at work, to insure that you are not bringing dirt and contamination into the procedure room. Wearing shop clothes and leaving them in the shop can also protect your street clothes and potentially prevent contamination from being taken home to your family.

To protect your family, all clothes worn in the shop should be stored, washed, and sanitized separately from regular street clothes.



10. Hands washed effectively and timely

The most common mode of transmission of pathogens is by the hands!

Consistent and effective hand hygiene is one of the most important things you can do to protect yourself and your client.

A general rule is to wash hands when arriving at work, before beginning any body art procedure, when donning gloves or removing gloves, and after any contact with surfaces or items that may be contaminated with bloodborne pathogens or other potentially infectious materials.

MAJOR VIOLATION

Failure to properly wash hands

Thorough training on hand hygiene procedures is critical for everyone working in this industry. Appropriate soap, paper towels and water temperature are all critical to achieving clean hands before, during and after any procedure. Refer to the instruction provided during bloodborne

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pathogen prevention training, in your Infection Prevention Control Plan (IPCP) and this guide for proper technique and timeliness.

You must thoroughly wash all surfaces of the hands and under the fingernails with soap and warm water for proper technique. Appropriate soap, paper towels and warm water are all important and in addition to good technique should results in clean hands.

Follow the steps below for proper handwashing technique.



What is hand hygiene? Hand hygiene includes washing your hands with plain soap and water, plus additional techniques that can be used to further decrease and prevent the growth of microorganisms on your hands.

- **Handwashing** means washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- **Antiseptic handwash** means washing hands with water and soap or detergents containing an antiseptic agent
- **Alcohol-based handrub** means rubbing hands with an alcohol-containing preparation

You can increase the effectiveness of handwashing by using antibacterial soaps and alcohol hand rubs with 70% alcohol. These have been shown to increase the effectiveness of hand washing.

Applying a 70% alcohol hand rub after washing your hands but before putting on your gloves makes your gloves go on more easily and inhibits the growth of bacteria in the warm and moist area created by your gloves.

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This section included several methods for reducing the number of microorganisms on your hands such as the use of an alcohol based handrub. Note that nothing can take the place of basic handwashing. The use of the alcohol based handrub is in addition to - but not in place of handwashing.

Take Care of Your Hands and Arms

You have a responsibility to your client to make sure that you do not transfer any disease or infection to your clients.



Take care to protect your hands and arms from getting blisters and cuts when you are engaged in sports or hobbies outside of the shop. You should not do tattooing or body piercing if you have any infected cuts, open sores, or rashes on your hands or arms.

Pimples, boils, and other skin infections contain pathogens that can be transferred to your clients.

Take precautions to avoid transferring pathogens from any skin conditions to environmental surfaces or supplies that will be used during body art procedures.

You should always make sure your hands, including your fingernails, are free from dirt and grime. Grime is filled with microorganisms and can provide an additional source of potential infection.

11. Hand washing facilities adequately supplied and accessible, warm potable water

The hand washing stations must be easily accessible at all times. This means that you can never store items in front, on top or inside the sink. The hand wash sinks must be properly supplied with warm water, liquid soap, and single use paper towels.

If the facility is lacking hot water you would need to close it until the repairs are made. The lack of hot water is considered an imminent health hazard because, without hot water, the practitioner's hands cannot be properly washed.

12. Hepatitis B Vaccination

You should complete the hepatitis B virus (HBV) vaccine series unless you know that you already have immunity to hepatitis B.



What does the hepatitis B vaccine protect you against?

- Protects you from acute hepatitis B
- Prevents you from being a HBV carrier
- Protects you from chronic liver disease caused by HBV
- Protects you from co-infection with hepatitis D

If you choose not to receive the hepatitis B vaccination you must sign a vaccination declination form. This form must be on-site and available upon inspection.

Tuberculosis (TB)

Although not required, part of your personal health regime should be getting tested for tuberculosis. TB is spread through the air from one person to another when a person with active TB breathes, talks, or coughs.

Body art practitioners are at risk for exposure to TB. Permanent cosmetic technicians are especially at risk because permanent cosmetics procedures can require a significant length of time in close proximity to clients who may have active TB.

Tuberculosis is a treatable disease. Without treatment, however, more than half of people with active tuberculosis will die within five years.

13. Bloodborne pathogen training

Talented body art practitioners are always ready to learn new skills and techniques that can help them produce better results. In addition to perfecting artistic skills, however, body art practitioners must also understand the importance of using good infection prevention procedures to protect their clients and themselves. Professional body art practitioners willingly participate in training sessions inside the shop and seek educational opportunities offered by professional organizations outside of the shop. At a minimum, every body art practitioner will increase their knowledge by completing the following annual training:

Bloodborne Pathogens Training - Annual Certificate

Practitioners and employees who are exposed to bloodborne pathogens or other potentially infectious materials while performing their job are required to complete annual bloodborne pathogens training that complies with the current guideline for bloodborne pathogen training under Cal/OSHA Title 8, section 5193.



14. Appropriate personal protective equipment available and used

Personal Protective Equipment



Personal protective equipment (PPE) is designed to protect the skin and mucous membranes from exposure to pathogens. You should have available, personal protective equipment that is appropriate for all the jobs you do in your shop.

PPE for use in the shop should at a minimum include gloves, surgical masks, protective eyewear, moisture resistant sleeve guards, aprons, and other protective covering or clothing.

You must wear protective face or eye protection and protective clothing when cleaning needle tubes and other equipment.

You must wear task specific gloves (heavy-duty, puncture resistant or examination gloves) for any task where exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM) may occur.

15. Branding - no other customers in procedures area

Branding shall not be done with another person in the procedure area; therefore, these procedures must be carefully planned to ensure the facility is clear of all other clients.

16. No procedures performed on unhealthy skin

The practitioner must inspect their client's skin before performing any procedure. Their skin surface must be free of rashes, pimples, boils, infections or any evidence of unhealthful conditions. Sometimes this means they need to reschedule once their skin has cleared up. Other times you may ask that they obtain written physician approval before going forward with any procedure.

17. Customers eighteen (18) years of age or older

All clients must be at least 18 years of age to be offered or to receive a tattoo, permanent cosmetics application or branding, regardless of parental consent.

Those under 18 years of age shall not be offered or receive a body piercing unless the piercing is performed in the presence of his or her parent or guardian.

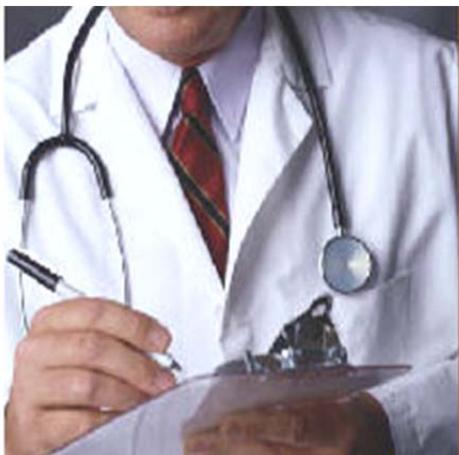
The piercing or application of permanent cosmetics to the nipples or genitals of a minor are prohibited. The application of permanent cosmetics to the nipples of a minor is authorized when applied by a registered permanent cosmetics technician with the consent of the minor's parent or guardian and as directed by a physician.

18. Skin adequately prepared for procedure

The client's skin must be washed before being shaved and before any procedure. The skin should also be wiped down with an antiseptic solution, antimicrobial or microbicide (see manufacturer's instructions).

**19. Clients records approved and available
(includes the consent form and questionnaire)**

In addition to age restrictions, a client should have clearance from a licensed physician prior to receiving any body art procedure if the client:



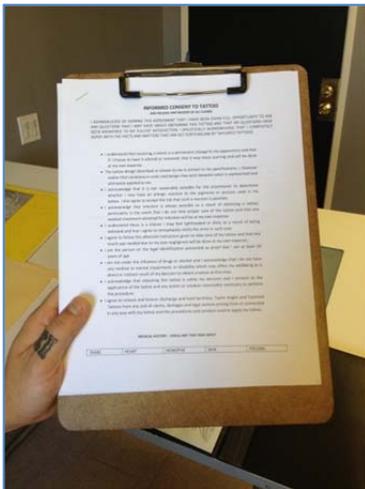
- Is under current medical recommendation to receive antibiotics prior to dental or surgical procedures
- Requests a procedure on an area of the skin that has a rash, infection, draining lesions, moles, or has a past history of herpes or cold sores

Clients who have had herpes in the area of the requested body art procedure should seek the advice of a physician about the need to begin taking antiviral medication before the procedure. Tattooing areas that have had a history of herpes can cause activation of the virus. The herpes virus can then cause an infection throughout the area that is tattooed.

Before Beginning a Procedure

It is important to remember that all required paperwork must be completed before beginning any procedure on a client. This can be accomplished by providing the client with a clipboard and all the necessary forms.

Before you begin, check the forms to make certain that the client has answered all the questions and has signed the forms. You must also check to see if the client has met age requirements and if they have listed any conditions on the medical history form that should be addressed or that may affect the outcome of the procedure.



A record of each client should include:

- Date of procedure
- Client's name
- Client's date of birth
- Client's address
- Copy of client's identification
- Client's signature
- Name of practitioner
- Description or copy of procedure
- Location on body of procedure
- Signed Informed Consent

You should review the procedure with your client to make sure they know what to expect, and you should discuss aftercare instructions that are specific for the body art procedure they will receive. You should also answer any questions your client may have. This is especially important for a client with no previous body art experience.

After you review the aftercare instructions with your client, hold the written aftercare instructions with the rest of the client records at the front counter until the client is ready to leave. When the client is ready to leave, provide him or her with a copy of the signed informed consent and a copy of the written aftercare instructions.

20. Appropriate aftercare instructions given to client, Complaints of infection reported to DEHQ

Aftercare begins at the completion of the piercing, tattooing or the application of permanent cosmetics. You are responsible for beginning this process.

Make sure that you gently clean the site of the procedure to remove excess ointments, inks, pigments, etc., and that you apply an appropriate protective covering before the client leaves the shop. Following this procedure not only gets the healing process off to a good start, it also protects other people from potential exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

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An appropriate protective covering obviously varies depending on the type of procedure, the location of the procedure site on the body, and whether there is any weeping from the procedure site.

A client should never be allowed to leave your shop with a tattoo that is not protected.

If the tattoo is weeping, additional steps must be taken to prevent the fluid from potentially contaminating environmental surfaces and other people.

Applying an absorbent dressing near the edge of the fresh tattoo when bandaging the area can trap any body fluid oozing from the tattoo.

MAJOR VIOLATIONS

Not cleaning and protecting the site of the body art procedure before the client leaves the shop

Failure to apply an appropriate dressing to a fresh tattoo

You must never let a client leave the shop without providing them with both written and verbal aftercare instructions. Besides explaining how to take care of the site of the body art, your instructions should also include any restrictions on physical activities such as bathing, recreational water activities, gardening, contact with animals, or any other activity that should be avoided until healing is complete. Tell your client how long the healing process should take. Compare the signs of normal healing with the signs of infection that indicate a need to seek medical attention.

Give your clients the shop phone number so they can call if they have any questions.

You cannot predict if a body art procedure site will become infected after the client leaves the shop, but you can influence the client's actions by explaining the importance of carefully following all the aftercare instructions.

If your client complains of infection you must report this to your inspector or to the DEHQ Epi Liaison at (858) 505-6814. This report should be made by the owner or manager of the facility if possible, and should include the client's name, contact information and a description of the situation related to the infection.

21. Safe Machine Design

Traditional Coil Machines



MAJOR VIOLATIONS

Failure to decontaminate a machine between clients

Failure to change needles, needle tubes, rubber bands, and grommets

Traditional coil machines have a potential for cross-contamination between customers. The machine must be decontaminated and all removable parts of the machine must be changed between each customer.

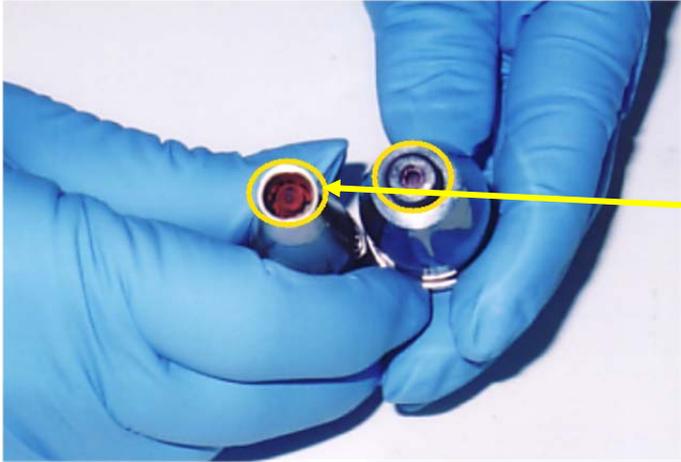
Failure to change the removable parts and decontaminate the machine is a practice that can lead to cross-contamination.

Permanent Cosmetics Machines

There are many different tattooing machines used by permanent cosmetic technicians. Some machines are safe and some are not. **The rule of thumb should be: If a machine has replaceable parts and can be taken apart down to a sealed motor, then the design is probably safe to use.**

(Photos depict a machine that uses disposable cartridges below. Motor housing is protected)

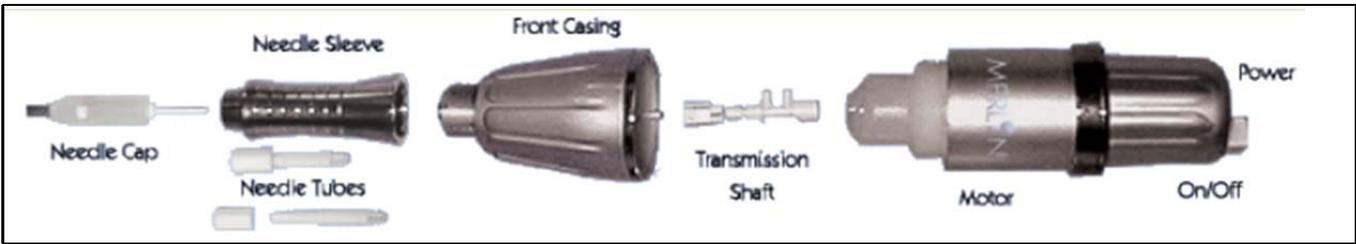




MAJOR VIOLATIONS

Using a machine that allows pigment to travel back up into the motor

Failure to replace all machine parts back to the motor between each client



Safe machines can be taken apart back to the motor.

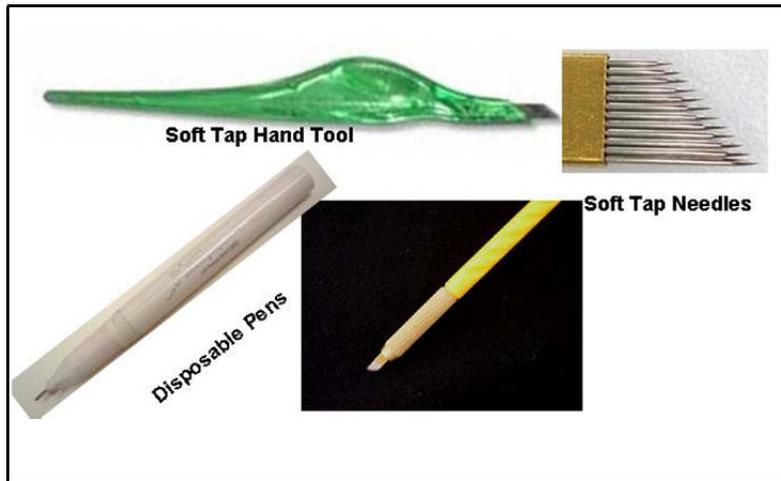


All of the parts of the machine back to the motor must be replaced with sterile parts for each client.

The motor housing must be disinfected between clients.

Unsafe machines cannot be taken apart.

Safe Hand Tools



Hand tools can be either disposable, or can have reusable handles.

You should only use reusable handles if you have an autoclave to sterilize the handle between clients.

You are not permitted to reuse tools that have non-removable needles.

Pre-sterilized needles are sold separately for **single-use** with the handles.

Sterilizing the handles in liquid sterilants such as glutaraldehyde is not permitted in the County of San Diego. Only steam autoclaves are allowed for sterilizing equipment.

Unsafe Hand Tools



Three tools of varying size

Enlarged tool

Tattooing should never be done with unsafe hand-made tools like those shown here.

The “needle groups” indicated by the arrow in the picture to the left are made from bone. Reusing needles is not permitted. Hand tools should be designed as a completely disposable tool, or designed to be used with single-use needle groups.

Note the ink stains above the needle group on the tool in the picture to the right.

These tools cannot be cleaned and sterilized properly.

The needle groups are not designed to be single use.

These tools can cause cross-contamination between clients that can result in illness.

MAJOR VIOLATIONS

Using unsafe tools that cannot be easily cleaned and sterilized

Reusing needles

22. Machines cleaned and disinfected between clients

To ensure you are working with the cleanest equipment possible you will need to wash and disinfect reusable equipment when it will not withstand being sterilized in a steam autoclave. So items such as the tattoo machine or permanent cosmetics machines and power or clip cords must be washed and an appropriate disinfectant must be applied to the surface. This must be completed between each customer.

Keep in mind that you must bag or apply a barrier to these items when in use since they cannot be sterilized. Additionally since they are not composed of completely smooth and continuous surfaces you will not be able to guarantee complete disinfection which is another reason to ensure that barriers are used.

23. Grommets and elastic bands shall be discarded after completion of procedure

Since disposable items such as grommets and elastic bands become contaminated during the course of a body art procedure they must be removed while breaking down the work station and disposed of in the trash container.

24. Workstation / procedure area decontaminated

Decontamination Procedures

The EHS will evaluate the procedures you use to protect your clients from cross-contamination. One of the things they will be looking for is how well you decontaminate your workstation between clients.



- Set-up trays and environmental surfaces must be decontaminated after each client.
- A quick spray and wipe down of your workstation can lead to a false sense of security.
- Actual decontamination requires a wet contact time that is specific for each disinfectant.
- Always follow the manufacturer's directions for the product you use.
- Nalgene bottles are the preferred method for dispensing disinfecting agents. Repeated exposure to the aerosols created by spray bottles can be harmful to your health.

Your workstations should have a smooth and easily cleanable surface that can repeated withstand cleaning and decontamination. Solid surfaces and objects that have come in contact with client or the materials used during procedure, including, chairs, armrests, tables, countertops, and trays must be disinfected before and after use.

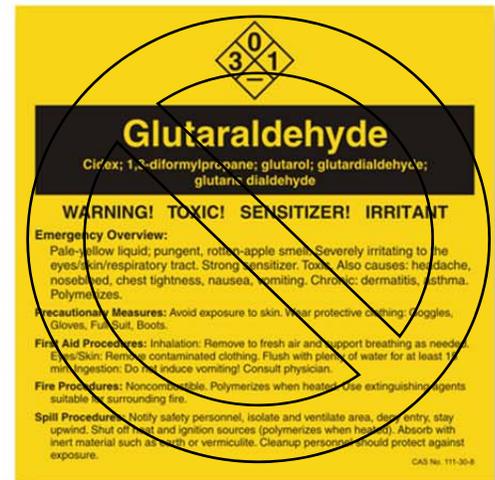
25. Appropriate chemical disinfectant used

Choose your disinfectants carefully. A hospital grade, intermediate level disinfectant that states on the label that it is effective against Hepatitis B & Hepatitis C is a requirement.



If you transfer the disinfectant (or any product) to an empty bottle or spray bottle for use be sure to always attach a label accurately describing the contents.

Always check the labels of disinfectant to make sure it does not contain Glutaraldehyde. This chemical requires special handling and is too toxic for use in the body art environment. If you find that you do have a disinfectant that contains this chemical you may want to remove it from your shop. If this is the case you should contact the company you purchased it from and see if they will take it back, otherwise contact the Environmental Protection Agency for instructions on disposal.



26. Disinfectant used appropriately, sufficient contact time

Ensure the disinfectant is used appropriately according to manufacturer's instructions. This information must be provided and is usually found on the label of the product. If the information is provided separate from the product you must have it easily available so all practitioners can refer to it when they need to. Every time you receive a new shipment of disinfectant you must check the label to see if there is a change in the amount of wet-contact time required to inactivate Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. It is important that the chemical solution remain wet during the entire time required. Due to changes the weather conditions and temperatures within your facility the amount of product you must distribute on surfaces to ensure that it is wet for the entire amount of time will vary.

27. Barriers used and used appropriately

Barrier Use

Using barrier film can help to prevent cross-contamination. Machines, power source knobs, clip cords, bottles, chairs, etc. should be covered with a protective barrier that is changed for each client. Using barriers adds a layer of protection and makes it easier to clean up between clients.



28. Products applied to skin are single use or dispensed aseptically

To avoid cross-contamination, whenever an item will come in contact with the skin surface it may not be used on other customers. Therefore products such as marking agents, inks, soaps, petroleum based products (A&D, Vaseline) they must be either dispensed aseptically or be a single use item.

To ensure products are not contaminated when dispensing for use it is important to take care not to touch the container opening to any other surface. Additionally, if the product requires the use of a dispensing agent (paddle, spoon, tongue depressor, etc.) you must make sure these items are clean, disinfected or sterilized before use. The dispensing agent can only be used once and then it must be replaced, disinfected or sterilized before the next use can occur.

If measuring a body piercing site is necessary, skin may be marked by using toothpicks and ink or a single-use marking pen.



29. Storage of inks, pigments, needles, tubes, etc.

Storage of Sterilized Equipment



VIOLATION
Failure to protect sterilized equipment packages from moisture and contamination

It is essential for sterilized equipment to be stored in a way that keeps it dry and protects the packaging from contamination. You should only handle sterilized packages with clean gloves. Touching sterilized packages with bare hands or gloves that have been used in a body art procedure can result in cross-contamination. Pathogens can then be transferred to the sterilized equipment when the packages are opened.

Sterile packages should always be evaluated before use. An instrument should never be used if the package is wet, torn, or punctured.

30. Jewelry, inks, needles etc. are approved

All jewelry used in a new piercing must be made of approved materials. The approved materials must be considered biocompatible. For a complete listing of the accepted materials see the Safe Body Art Act under section 119310.

Only commercially-manufactured inks, dyes or pigments are approved for use in a body art facility. Since the FDA does not currently regulate these products, it is up to the operator or practitioner to contact the manufacturer and ask about the operating procedures in use to ensure the product is not contaminated. You must document this information in your Infection Prevention Control Plan.



The use of sterile water for rinsing and for dilution of inks is a DEHQ Guideline. If you are having a difficult time meeting this guideline contact DEHQ for ideas on how to comply.

31. Cross-contamination avoided during all phases of procedure

Cross-contamination is the most important behavior to avoid while performing body art. This is the primary cause of illness in this environment. Since microbes cannot be viewed with the naked eye, good technique and awareness by the practitioner is all that stands in the way of the spread of illness to both the public and to the practitioner. This is why it is very important that the practitioner always be aware of what items in their environment are potentially contaminated. Of course good technique is important to all phases of the procedure. This includes but is not limited to set up, the procedure itself and the tear down or clean up after the procedure is completed.

Wastes generated during the course of a procedure should be disposed of immediately after use, which is why it is recommended that the trashcan be close enough for use during the entire procedure.

Standards of Practice – Preventing Cross-Contamination

What are Standards of Practice? Standards of practice are rules, laws, guidelines, expectations, and general criteria used for establishing how a business or profession will be conducted. Everyone from medical personnel to farmers have standards of practice. The shop Infection Prevention and Control Plan (IPCP) is where you should find the standards of practice used in your shop. Your shop's IPCP should be based on state and local laws, and establishes the standards of practice for everyone working in the shop. The IPCP defines the roles of the shop owner, employees, and practitioners, and establishes the criteria that will be used to evaluate your performance during inspections.



MAJOR VIOLATION

Failure to use appropriate strategies to prevent or reduce exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials for customers and for those that work in the body art industry

Practitioners should strive to follow the practices and procedures outlined in the IPCP all of the time

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During inspections, the Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) will look at the general condition of the shop, test the autoclave, and check the records for your sterilization process. You may also be observed to determine how well you follow the IPCP and how careful you are. **Test yourself! Do you routinely use strategies, practices and procedures to:**

- **Prevent** yourself from acquiring hepatitis B
- **Protect** yourself and your client against TB
- **Protect** yourself from exposure to bloodborne pathogens and OPIM
- **Respond quickly** to an accidental exposure to blood
- **Prevent** cross-contamination between yourself and your client, and between clients
- **Eliminate** or minimize hazards
- **Promote** a safer environment in the shop
- **Decrease** the potential for infection after your client leaves the shop

How closely are you following the strategies outlined in the IPCP to break the cycle of cross-contamination from you to clients, from clients to you, and from client to client?

32. Areas separated, no living or sleeping quarters, no animals, mobile units used exclusively for body art

The facility must be separate from any residential areas used for sleeping, bathing, or meal preparation. If a residence is right next to the facility it would need to be designed so that they do not share an entrance or toilet facility.

The procedure area must be separated by observers through a physical distance of 10 feet or by a physical barrier such as a wall or window. Salon activities must be separate from body art facilities such as permanent cosmetics by a wall or approved partition.

Mobile body art vehicles can only be used for the purposes of performing body art. Body art procedures performed at a mobile unit shall be done only from a permitted and enclosed vehicle such as a trailer or mobile-home. Procedures can only be performed within the enclosed vehicle.

33. Floors, walls, etc...clean, in good repair, facility free from vermin, adequate light and ventilation; mobile units must keep doors closed and windows screened

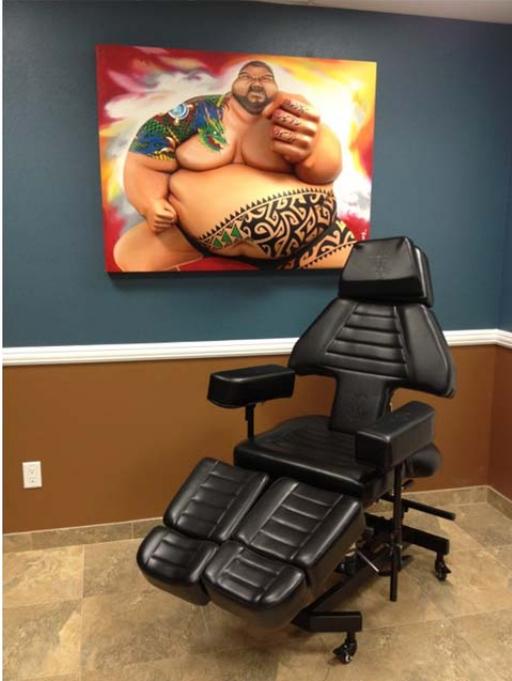
The walls and floors of a body art facility must be smooth, free of open holes and washable. The facility must be free of insect and rodent infestations and be equipped with adequate light (at least 50 foot candles) and appropriate ventilation. The shop must be maintained in a clean and sanitary manner free of excessive dust and dirt at all times. If the shop is kept clean and orderly there should not be any problems with vermin.

In mobile body art facilities the doors must be kept closed and the windows screened.

34. Workstation, surfaces including chairs, armrests, etc., in good repair, trash removed frequently

Workstations

Workstations must be kept free of clutter and non-essential items. You should have nothing on your workstation countertop except items that you use for body art procedures. Music players, candles, gadgets, etc. should be kept on a shelf or on an additional counter, table etc.



Your workstation furniture should have smooth and easily cleanable surfaces that can withstand repeated cleaning and decontamination. Cracked or torn furniture must be repaired, which means either replacement or recovering with a material that is non-porous.



A biohazard station – such as the one depicted to the left, can keep the sharps container away from your workstation. It must be close enough, however, that you can reach it without having to stand up or walk away from your workstation.

The trash container must be lined with a plastic bag and may be removed between customers.

35. Permit, registration and required signs posted

Both the Environmental Health and Quality Permit (facility permit) and all Practitioner Registration Certificates must be posted in conspicuous place. For example, the facility permit should be near the entrance so customers will know the shop is properly permitted immediately as they walk in. The Certificate of Registration should be posted in the practitioners work station or room. Of course body art practitioners, tattooists, piercers and permanent cosmetics technicians, must be properly registered with our department. The only exceptions to this would be those visiting from another jurisdiction in the State of California. For those individuals, they may use their practitioner registration obtained in their home county or city and may perform outside of their home jurisdiction without obtaining an additional, local registration as long as they work no more than 5 continuous days for no more than 15 days within a year.



Body art practitioners can only perform body art from a permitted body art facility.

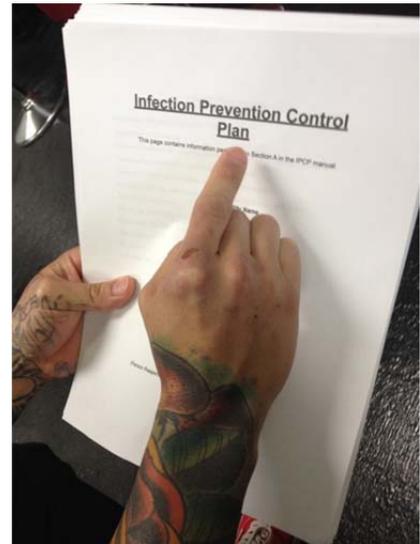
36. IPCP and employee training records present

Infection Prevention and Control Plan Training

Every Body Art facility must have an Infection Prevention and Control Plan (IPCP) maintained on-site and available upon inspection. The facility's plan may be reviewed and approved by their inspector.

Effective plans require:

- The owner of the shop to develop, implement and maintain the IPCP
- In-shop training on the IPCP when a person starts working in the shop, and training annually or whenever there are changes to the plan
- The practitioners and employees to understand the IPCP and to follow it at all time



The Infection Prevention and Control Plan should be reviewed annually or whenever changes are made in practices, procedures or equipment. Any changes in practices, procedures or equipment should be noted in the plan. Practitioners and employees exposed to blood and other potentially infectious materials should participate in the annual review of the plan.

See the DEHQ website for the IPCP template. You may choose to use this document to aid you in developing your facility IPCP.

37. Restroom available and stocked

The restroom area must be kept clean and in good repair. It must also be properly stocked at all times with toilet paper, paper towels and liquid hand soap in proper dispensers. This room should be conveniently located for employees and for patrons, and made available during all hours of business.

This area can only be used for toilet and hand washing activities. It must never be used for washing of body art equipment.

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Qualifications of Environmental Health Specialists

Environmental Health Specialists (EHS) are required to have a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with at least 30 semester units of basic biological, physical, or environmental science courses. All Environmental Health Specialists in the Food and Housing Division are required to possess a valid registration as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist in the State of California. This registration ensures that Environmental Health Specialists have met specific educational, training, and experience requirements to better serve their communities.

What to do in the event of an accidental exposure to bloodborne pathogens or complaint of infection from clients

Body art facility owners must report complaints of infection to the Department of Environmental Health and Quality at this designated number: (858) 505-6814. Once the report is reviewed, the Epidemiology Liaison will determine if a site visit is necessary. Any information received regarding an accidental exposure or infection complaint is kept confidential.

Building or remodeling your body art facility?

Contact the Plan Check Unit for instructions before you begin construction. You may also download the Plan Check guide on our website. The Plan Check Unit can be reached at (858) 505-6660.

Food and Housing Division contact numbers

Environmental Health Specialist on Duty	(858) 505-6900
Complaint reporting	(858) 505-6903
Body Art related illness complaints	(858) 505-6814
Bloodborne Pathogens Training information	(858) 505-6900
Plan Check Unit Technical Questions	(858) 505-6659
E-mail: fhduyeh@sdcounty.ca.gov	
Website: http://www.sdcountybodyart.org	

County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health and Quality, Food and Housing Division office location:



5500 Overland Ave., Ste. 170
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 505-6900
M-F 8:00am – 4:00pm
Closed for lunch 12:00pm – 1:00pm

IMPORTANT CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

**Cal/OSHA Enforcement Unit
San Diego District office**
7575 Metropolitan Drive,
Ste. 207,
San Diego 92108
(619) 767-2280
fax (619) 767-2299

**Cal/OSHA Consultation Service
San Diego Office**
7575 Metropolitan Drive,
Ste. 204,
San Diego 92108
(619) 767-2060
(800) 963-9494

**California Occupational Safety and Health
(Cal/OSHA)**
<http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh>

**The National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health (NIOSH)**
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh>

Professional Organizations

Alliance for Professional Tattooists, Inc.
(520) 514-5549
<http://www.safe-tattoos.com>

Association of Professional Piercers
(888) 888-1277
<http://www.safepiercing.org>

**California Alliance for the Promotion of
Safe Body Art**
(858) 277-5082
<http://www.CAPSBA.org>

**Society of Permanent Cosmetics
Professionals**
(949) 548-6447
<http://www.spcp.org>

Approved Bloodborne Pathogen Classes

AboveTraining.com
Online training
(801) 494-1416
<http://www.abovetraining.com/bbp.php>

**Alliance of Professional Tattooists, Inc.
(APT)**
Mike Martin
In-shop training
(619) 719-2291
fleshskingrafix@gmail.com
info@safe-tattoo.com

Body Art Training Company
Cathy Montie
Online and in-shop training
(619) 303-5893
cathymontie.com
<http://class.cathymontie.com/bbpclass>

Body Art Training Group
Kathy Hartman
Online and in-shop training
(858) 792-1630
Kathy@bodyarttraininggroup.com
<http://www.bodyarttraininggroup.com>
<http://www.yourtrainingplace.com>

Compliance Solutions
Sky Renfro
In-shop training
(909) 553-4411
sky@propiercing.com

DMS School of Health and Safety
Brenda Baker/Dennis Flores
In-shop training
(714) 226-9420
dmstattoosupply@gmail.com

Susan Church Permanent Makeup Edu
Classroom training available
(949) 548-6447
<http://www.permanentmakeupschool.org>

**SEE THE DEHQ WEBSITE FOR AN
UPDATED LIST OF TRAINERS**

APPENDIX A: SELF INSPECTION CHECKLIST

The items shown on this checklist represent the major areas evaluated during a body art safety inspection. This check list is designed to assist you in evaluating the condition of your facility between inspections by this Department. We suggest that you go through the list and check off items you believe are in compliance. Any item not checked could be considered a violation and should be corrected. We hope this checklist will help you maintain a safe and compliant body art facility.



County of San Diego
 Department of Environmental Health and Quality
 (858) 505-6900



Body Art Self-Inspection Checklist

Shop Name _____

Date _____

		Cleaning and Sterilization
	1	Ultrasonic cleaner – manufacturer’s instructions followed and an appropriate cleaning agent used
	2	Autoclave is clean and properly maintained
	3	Autoclave passes Integrator test
	4	Sterilization log is kept (with Integrator attached)
	5	Autoclave is loaded correctly
	6	Sterilized packages are left in autoclave until dry
		Practitioner Health and Hygiene
	7	Practitioner is free from rashes, infections or open wounds
	8	Hepatitis B vaccinations records are maintained on site
	9	Personal protective equipment is available and used appropriately
	10	Practitioner has completed bloodborne pathogens training annually
	11	Hands are washed effectively and in a timely manner
	12	Hand sink is accessible, and has warm running water, soap and paper towels
	13	Practitioner does not eat, drink or smoke at workstation
		Client and Client Records
	14	Informed consent, and medical history forms are on file for each client; any questions are answered
	15	Health questionnaire is on file for each client
	16	Appropriate written aftercare instructions are available and given to each client, and any questions answered
	17	Skin adequately prepared before procedure
	18	New tattoo, piercing, branding or permanent cosmetic is appropriately protected before client leaves facility
		Infection Prevention Control
	19	IPCP is updated, onsite and available for next inspection

20	Bandaging procedures are followed and aftercare instructions are provided
21	Cleaning completed in all areas of facility
22	Procedure for cleaning, packaging, sterilizing, and storing reusable instruments is followed
23	Procedure for safe handling and disposal of sharps waste is followed
24	Selection and use of personal protective equipment is appropriate
25	Cross-contamination is avoided during all phases of procedure
	Machines
26	All machines are of safe design
27	Machines broken down and disinfected between clients
28	Parts replaced between clients
	General Health and Safety
29	Workstation surfaces are decontaminated between clients
30	Protected storage of machines, ink, and supplies
31	Appropriate barriers are used for machine, clip cord, bottles, set up tray, power supply
32	Sharps are placed into sharps container at workstation immediately after use
33	
34	Hand sink is supplied with soap and paper towels
35	Trash is disposed of and sharps waste is picked up/mailed out as needed
36	Proper use of sinks: biohazard sink; mop sink; hand wash sink
37	All chemicals are labeled and stored properly
38	Facility maintained free of vermin

The following steps will be taken to correct any items that are not checked and that are considered to be a violation:

Practitioner signature _____ Date _____

Shop Owner signature _____ Date _____

APPENDIX B: CLIENT RECORDS TEMPLATE

The Client records template contains all the information that you are required to keep for a client. You can either choose to use them or design your own. Ensure all the information included on these forms is included on your forms at minimum.

Date _____

CLIENT QUESTIONNAIRE & CONSENT FOR BODY ART

NAME: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____

Date of Birth	Location on Body of Tattoo	Name of Practitioner
---------------	----------------------------	----------------------

COPY OR DESCRIPTION OF TATTOO

I accept this design. Client Signature: _____

ID	ID
----	----

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Page One

Page One is designed to allow you to tape it to your copier so the client's ID can be copied right onto the form.

Page Two is the Questionnaire and is designed to gather the client medical history. This form should be completed, signed by the client, and reviewed by the practitioner before any body art procedure is begun.

Page Three is an informed consent form that must be completed and signed before any body art is performed on the client.

CLIENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: _____ Last _____ First _____ Date of Birth _____

Email Address: _____ Address: _____

Phone (_____) _____ Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Please check any conditions listed below that apply to you.

<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/> Hemophilia	<input type="checkbox"/> TB	<input type="checkbox"/> Allergies
<input type="checkbox"/> Epilepsy	<input type="checkbox"/> Taking Blood Thinners	<input type="checkbox"/> Eczema/Psoriasis	<input type="checkbox"/> Allergic reactions to latex
<input type="checkbox"/> Fainting or Dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/> Bleeding Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Scarring/Keloiding	<input type="checkbox"/> Allergic reaction to antibiotics
<input type="checkbox"/> Cardiac Valve Disease		<input type="checkbox"/> Skin Conditions	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Describe anything above that applies to you _____

Have you ever had a herpes infection at the proposed procedure site? Yes ___ No ___

List all medications that you are currently taking or that you have taken in the past _____

Have you ever been prescribed antibiotics prior to dental or surgical procedures? Yes ___ No ___

Please describe any previous exposures to bloodborne pathogens that you are aware of: _____

Is there any other information you feel you should provide to the body art practitioner? _____

The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Client: _____ Date: _____

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Page Two

INFORMED CONSENT TO RECEIVE BODY ART

PLEASE READ AND CHECK THE BOXES WHEN YOU ARE CERTAIN YOU UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS OF SIGNING

In consideration of receiving BODY ART from _____, the practitioner at _____, (together with its employees, apprentices, and agents, the "Body Art Business") I, _____, Client's name, confirm the following by initialing each applicable item:

- All questions about what to expect during and after the body art procedure have been answered to my satisfaction, and I have been given written aftercare instructions for the procedure I am about to receive.
- The aftercare instructions include the signs of infection and when I should seek medical care.
- I understand that tattoo inks, dyes, and pigments have not been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration and that the health consequences of using these products are unknown.
- The body piercing described or shown on the client record form is being placed to my specifications.
- The tattoo described or shown on the client record form is drawn to my specifications.
- I understand that tattooing is permanent and that if I choose to have it removed, it may be expensive and leave scars.
- I am the person on the legal ID presented as proof that I am at least 18 years of age.
- I am not under the influence of alcohol or drugs and that I am voluntarily submitting to be tattooed without duress or coercion.
- I understand there is a possibility of an allergic reaction.
- I understand there is a possibility of getting an infection.
- I agree to immediately notify the artist in the event I feel lightheaded, dizzy and/or faint before, during or after the procedure.

I, _____, have been fully informed of the risks of tattooing including but not limited to infection, scarring, difficulties in detecting melanoma, and allergic reactions to tattoo pigment, latex gloves, and antibiotics. Having been informed of the potential risks associated with getting a tattoo, I still wish to proceed with tattoo application and I assume any and all risks that may arise from tattooing.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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Page Three

APPENDIX C: CLIENT RECORDS TEMPLATE

CLIENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Last First

Email Address _____ Address _____

Phone (_____) _____ Emergency Contact/Phone _____

Please check any conditions listed below that apply to you.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hemophilia	<input type="checkbox"/>	T.B	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allergies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Epilepsy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taking Blood Thinners	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eczema/Psoriasis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allergic reactions to latex
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fainting or Dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bleeding Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scarring/Keloiding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allergic reaction to antibiotics
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cardiac Valve Disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ever passed out when giving blood?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skin Conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Describe anything above that applies to you _____

Have you ever had a herpes infection at the proposed procedure site? Yes_____ No_____

List all medications that you are currently taking or that you have taken in the past:

Have you ever been prescribed antibiotics prior to dental or surgical procedures? Yes__ No__

Please describe any previous exposures to bloodborne pathogens that you are aware of:

Is there any other information you feel you should provide to the body art practitioner? _____

The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Client _____ Date _____

APPENDIX C: CLIENT RECORDS TEMPLATE

INFORMED CONSENT TO RECEIVE BODY ART

PLEASE READ AND CHECK THE BOXES WHEN YOU ARE CERTAIN YOU UNDERSTAND
THE IMPLICATIONS OF SIGNING

In consideration of receiving BODY ART from _____, the practitioner
Name of the Practitioner

at _____, (together with its employees, apprentices, and agents, the "Body Art Business")
Name of Tattoo Business

I _____ confirm the following by initialing each applicable item:
Client's name

- All questions about what to expect during and after the body art procedure have been answered to my satisfaction, and I have been given written aftercare instructions for the procedure I am about to receive.
- The aftercare instructions include the signs of infection and when I should seek medical care.
- I understand that tattoo inks, dyes, and pigments have not been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration and that the health consequences of using these products are unknown.
- The body piercing described or shown on the client record form is being placed to my specifications
- The tattoo described or shown on the client record form is drawn to my specifications.
- I understand that tattooing is permanent and that if I choose to have it removed, it may be expensive and leave scars.
- I am the person on the legal ID presented as proof that I am at least 18 years of age.
- I am not under the influence of alcohol or drugs and that I am voluntarily submitting to be tattooed without duress or coercion.
- I understand there is a possibility of an allergic reaction.
- I understand there is a possibility of getting an infection.
- I agree to immediately notify the artist in the event I feel lightheaded, dizzy and/or faint before, during or after the procedure.

I, _____ have been fully informed of the risks of tattooing including but not limited to infection, scarring, difficulties in detecting melanoma, and allergic reactions to tattoo pigment, latex gloves, and antibiotics. Having been informed of the potential risks associated with getting a tattoo, I still wish to proceed with tattoo application and I assume any and all risks that may arise from tattooing.

Client Signature _____ Date _____

APPENDIX C: CLIENT RECORDS TEMPLATE

Autoclaves can be dangerous to use. This Autoclave Guideline contains points to remember in order to ensure instruments are sterilized and to protect both you and the autoclave.

Autoclave Guidelines for Sterilization of Body Art Equipment

Summary: Operating an autoclave requires caution and adherence to manufacturer's directions. All people processing body art equipment should be trained in the proper use of all autoclaves used in the business before sterilizing any equipment. Only people who have received training should be allowed to use the autoclave. A list of all people who have been trained to use the autoclave, including the date of training, should be posted adjacent to the autoclave.

The following are general guidelines. Post the exact procedures per the manufacturer of your autoclave by the autoclave.

WHAT TO DO		HOW TO DO IT
1	Check the autoclave's water level and drain screen.	Follow manufacturer's directions for adjusting water level and for locating the drain screen. Clean out any debris that might have collected.
2	Check that needles and other equipment have been properly packaged, labeled, and dated for sterilization.	All items packaged for sterilization must have a color change indicator either as part of the packaging material or as a test strip inserted into each package. Each package is to be labeled with the practitioner's initials, the processing date, and the load number. If item is not visible through packaging, then the identity of the item must be noted on packaging.
3	Arrange items according to the autoclave manufacturer's directions to insure complete sterilization of all items.	Follow the autoclave manufacturer's diagram or instructions regarding the proper loading of the autoclave.
4	Monitor sterilization of load to determine if the load has received sufficient steam and heat and has been processed long enough to achieve sterilization.	Write load number on an integrator, bag it and insert it in the center of the autoclave among the packaged items to be sterilized.
5	Set the appropriate time (per manufacturer's recommendations) for sterilization and drying.	Run autoclave for 30 – 35 minutes of sterilization plus 20-25 minutes of drying time (for typical steam autoclave).
6	Check autoclave pressure.	The autoclave should reach 15 – 30 psi (pounds per square inch) (see instructions for your autoclave)
7	Start the autoclave.	See instructions for your autoclave
8	Fill out the autoclave log.	Fill in information on the log while the autoclave is starting.
9	Follow these precautions when the autoclave cycle is finished.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wear appropriate protection equipment when opening the autoclave door Wait for the pressure gauge to drop to zero with zero time remaining before opening the door Never try to open the door if the autoclave is still exhausting Stand behind the door and open it cautiously Allow all steam to escape before reaching inside Allow packages to cool inside the autoclave until dry.
10	Protect autoclaved items.	Remove dry sterilized items from the autoclave and transfer them directly to a clean covered container that is stored away from the autoclave and ultrasonic unit.
11	Check Integrator and record results.	Remove integrator and check to see if load passed. Attach the integrator to the appropriate line on the autoclave log
12	When Integrator does not show "Pass"	If integrator does not indicate a pass, do not use items processed in the autoclave. They are not sterile. Insert new integrator into the middle of the load and re-process the whole load. If the autoclave still does not pass the Integrator test, cease using the autoclave until it has been repaired to adequately sterilize.

APPENDIX C: CLIENT RECORDS TEMPLATE

Every shop that performs in-house sterilization of any instruments must maintain a sterilization log.

You may design your own or use the log provided. You can download this log from our website at www.sdcountybodyart.org.

The log should have spaces for monitoring the sterilization process, and for actions taken when color indicators or the Integrator do not indicate that steam has penetrated all the areas of the autoclave. When this happens all items must be repackaged and sterilized again. Failure to re-package and sterilize the items can result in the transfer of bloodborne pathogens from one person to another.

Please see the log on the following page.



County of San Diego
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY
FOOD AND HOUSING DIVISION

Date _____

Shop Name _____

Autoclave # _____

Date	Load #	Contents	Operator	Time Begin - End	Temp	PSI	Peel pack Chemical Indicators (Circle if all change color)	Integrator Results (Attach used integrator test below)	Spore Test Results when Included	Actions taken for packages with non-responsive chemical indicators or Integrators that show fail
							OK			
							OK			
							OK			
							OK			
							OK			
							OK			

APPENDIX E: INK WARNING SIGN

In 2005, several ink manufacturers were sued and required to have warnings on the inks they sell to customers in California.

NEWS RELEASE

State Judge Issues Preliminary Injunction Requiring Warnings on Tattoo Ink Products Sold by Largest Ink Sellers in US

American Environmental Safety Institute Submitted Evidence Showing Dangerous Levels of Lead and Seven Other Toxic Metals in Tattoo Inks

Los Angeles, CA – Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Irving Feffer issued today a preliminary injunction against Huck Spaulding Enterprises, Inc. ("Spaulding") and Superior Tattoo Equipment Co. ("Superior"), the largest tattoo ink sellers in the country. New York-based Spaulding sells the "VooDoo" brand, while Arizona-based Superior sells the "Prizm" brand of tattoo inks in California. The preliminary injunction requires these companies to place the following warning on their tattoo ink labels, catalogs and Internet sites for their California customers:

"WARNING: Tattoo inks and pigments contain many heavy metals, including Lead, Arsenic and others. All of these heavy metals have been scientifically determined by the State of California to cause cancer or birth defects and other reproductive harm. Pregnant women and women of childbearing age in particular should consult with their doctor before getting any tattoo. A person is exposed to tattoo inks and/or pigments when they get a tattoo because they are injected with tattoo ink under their skin or the tattoo ink is applied on their skin."

Judge Feffer granted the motion for preliminary injunction brought by the American Environmental Safety Institute in its Proposition 65 lawsuit filed in 2004 against Spaulding, Superior and seven other tattoo ink and pigment manufacturers. The lawsuit alleges that these companies are exposing teenagers and adults who are tattooed using their inks to dangerous levels of Lead and seven other toxic metals.

The Institute's President, Deborah A. Sivas, stated that, "We are gratified by this important public health action taken by Judge Feffer to protect consumers from unwarned exposure to dangerous tattoo inks. Our scientific research shows that tattoo inks sold by these companies contain Lead, Antimony, Arsenic, Beryllium, Chromium, Cobalt, Nickel and Selenium, all toxic metal poisons known to the State of California's health experts to be hazardous to human health. Tattoo customers have a right to know about this danger – before they get their tattoo."

**The lawsuit also specifies that body art shop must post a warning sign.
The sample sign has the required wording and the minimum size requirement.**

"WARNING: Tattoo inks and pigments contain many heavy metals, including Lead, Arsenic and others. All of these heavy metals have been scientifically determined by the State of California to cause cancer or birth defects and other reproductive harm. Pregnant women and women of childbearing age in particular should consult with their doctor before getting any tattoo. A person is exposed to tattoo inks and/or pigments when they get a tattoo because they are injected with tattoo ink under their skin or the tattoo ink is applied on their skin."

(This sign must be no less than 20" X 24")



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AUG 11, 2006