

## Sterilisation

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



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

3. **Instruments/equipment MUST:**

- Be thoroughly cleaned before they are sterilised
- Be dry when they are removed from the steriliser
- Remain packaged until needed for use

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

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

### Sterile instruments/ equipment

All reusable articles used to penetrate a person's skin (such as body piercing equipment) **MUST** be sterilised.

## Council requirements

1. Contact your local council to ensure you can meet their planning and building requirements
2. Councils require walls, floors and ceilings to be smooth and impervious for easy cleaning
3. Your skin penetration practice **MUST** be registered with the local council

## Warning

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

## Further information

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

**NSW Health information:**

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/skinpenetration/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/skinpenetration/Pages/default.aspx)

# Requirements for the Tattoo/Body Art Industry



Health

## What are the health requirements for tattoo/body art businesses?

1. If a tattoo/body art practitioner conducts a procedure that **involves skin penetration** then they **MUST** comply with the *Public Health Regulation 2012*
2. Procedures that involve 'Skin Penetration' include:
  - Tattooing
  - Body piercing (ear, nose, tongue and all other areas of the body)
  - Scarification
  - Body implants

## Use of inks/pigments

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



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

## Hygiene requirements

### Premises **MUST**:

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



### Tattooist/body artists **MUST**:

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



## Sterile needles

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



## Beware of what you share

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

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

**Tattooist/body artists should be immunised against hepatitis B.**