

Skin Piercing Guidance

For the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises and fittings in such premises a proprietor shall ensure that:

- All internal walls, doors, windows, partitions, floors and floor coverings, and ceilings are kept clean and in such good repair as to enable them to be cleaned effectively;
- The treatment area is used solely for giving treatment;
- The floor of the treatment area is provided with a smooth impervious surface;
- All waste materials, and other litters, arising from the treatment are handled and disposed of as clinical waste in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance as advised by the local authority;
- All needles used in treatment are single-use and disposable, as far as is practicable; and are stored and disposed of as clinical waste in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance as advised by the local authority;
- All furniture and fittings in the premises are kept clean and in such good repair as to enable them to be cleaned effectively;
- All tables, couches and seats used by clients in the treatment area, and any surface on which the items specified in 3b below are placed immediately prior to treatment, have a smooth impervious surface which is disinfected immediately after use and at the end of each working day;
- Where tables and couches are used, they are covered by a disposable paper sheet which is changed for each client;
- No eating, drinking or smoking is permitted in the treatment area and a notice or notices reading “No Smoking”, “No Eating or Drinking” is prominently displayed there.

For the purpose of securing the cleansing and so far as is appropriate, the sterilization of instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with the treatment:

- An operator shall ensure that, before use in connection with treatment, any gown, wrap or other protective clothing, paper or other covering, towel, cloth or other such article used in the treatment –
- is clean and in good repair, and, so far as is appropriate, sterile;

- has not previously been used in connection with any other client unless it consists of a material which can be and has been adequately cleaned and, so far as is appropriate, sterilized.

An operator shall ensure that:

- any needle, metal instrument, or other item of equipment, used in treatment or for handling instruments and needles used in the treatment is in a sterile condition and kept sterile until it is used;
- all dyes used for semi-permanent skin-colouring or tattooing are sterile and inert;
- the containers used to hold the dyes for each customer are either disposed of at the end of each session of treatment, or are cleaned and sterilized before re-use.

A proprietor shall provide:

- adequate facilities and equipment for the purpose of sterilization (unless pre-sterilized items are used) and of cleansing, as required in pursuance of these byelaws;
- sufficient and safe gas points and/or electrical socket outlets to enable compliance with these byelaws;
- an adequate constant supply of clean hot and cold water readily available at all times in the treatment area;
- adequate storage for all items mentioned above, so that those items are properly stored in a clean and suitable place so as to avoid, as far as possible, the risk of contamination.
- where studs and backclasps are used for cosmetic piercing they shall be pre-loaded into disposable inserts or mounts prior to sterilization.

For the purpose of securing the cleanliness of operators:

A proprietor shall ensure that:

- any operator keeps his hands and nails clean and his nails short;
- any operator wears disposable surgical gloves that have not previously been used with any other client;
- any operator of the premises wears a gown, wrap or protective clothing that is clean and washable, or alternatively a disposable covering that has not previously been used in connection with any other client;
- any operator keeps any open boil, sore, cut or open wound on an exposed part of his body effectively covered by an impermeable dressing;
- any operator does not smoke or consume food or drink in the treatment area.

A proprietor shall provide:

- suitable and sufficient washing facilities for the sole use of operators, including hot and cold water and sanitising soap, detergent or alcohol gel handcleaner;
- suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation for operators.