

Tattoo Artist Health Requirements Form



Public Health Act 2010

Public Health Regulation 2022

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

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This form contains important information for tattoo artists and must be read and signed by all participants in the event.

In order to prevent the spread of blood-borne infections during the event, we have listed below the infection control requirements to be followed by all artists as set down by Coffs Harbour City Council and NSW Health.

Environmental Health Officers from Coffs Harbour City Council and NSW Health may inspect all booths prior to the opening of the event. Inspectors may also be making inspections during the event and will be checking with each booth to ensure that all tattooists are complying with these regulations.

Body art is used to describe any process to decorate or adorn the body by means of implantation, or the marking of the skin in a permanent way by means of injection, incision or heat. Current practices include tattooing and cosmetic tattooing, body piercing, branding, scarification, braiding and three-dimensional art such as beading or devil's horns.

Invasive body art involves a high risk of transmission of blood-borne viruses such as Hepatitis B and C and HIV, and bacterial infections that can be transmitted by unclean and non-sterile equipment and unhygienic procedures and premises. The potential for serious infection occurs during body art procedures because needles used to penetrate the skin become contaminated by blood and body fluids, which do not have to be visible on an instrument, needle or working surface for infection to be transmitted. There is also a risk of nerve damage and unwanted scarring if procedures are poorly performed.

Every client and worker is at risk if proper infection control procedures are not followed. The client's skin should be clean and free of infection, and all instruments used in skin penetration practices must be sterile at the time of use.

In Australia, it is illegal to tattoo, brand, bead or mark any person under the age of 18 years. Piercing is the same unless it is piercing the ears which can be done from the age of 16 years.

In agreement with the event organiser no other invasive body art is permitted at the event except Tattooing, unless prior written consent has been obtained from Coffs Harbour City Council Environmental Health Team.

Each Tattoo artist must complete and sign this **Tattoo Artist Health Requirements Form** and return it to the event organiser. Forms must be signed by the artist and emailed back to the organiser or handed to officials at the event registration desk prior to the start of the event.

Minimum Health Requirements

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1. All surfaces such tables, benches, shelving and storage areas must be constructed of materials that are smooth, impervious and easily cleanable.
2. Reusable equipment and fixtures must be thoroughly cleaned and where necessary, disinfected with hospital grade disinfectant, between clients.
3. Any cleaning products must be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions i.e. contact times and dilution rates applied.
4. Only single use disposable needles and grips/tubes shall be used and these should be stored in a suitable storage area for clean and sterile items to protect them from contamination.
5. Cover surfaces that may need to be touched (e.g. Spray and ink bottles) with single-use plastic bags or plastic film so only the nozzles are exposed. Cover light fittings and power pack controls with plastic film.
6. Dispense the required dyes, pigment, lubricating jelly, antiseptic cream and any other lotion (including solutions used to clean the skin during the tattooing processes) into single use containers using single-use spatulas. If more dyes, pigment or solutions are required, a clean spatula should be used.
7. Place water for rinsing between colours into a single-use cup.
8. Place single-use wipes for one client in the area, wipes must be stored where they cannot become contaminated.
9. Open all sterile items (including tubes/grips and needles attached to needle bars) in the presence of the client to show sterile instruments are being used, check chemical indicators for colour change and, if satisfactory, then assemble the hand piece. Document any chemical indicator results on the client waiver form.
10. Any leftover lubricating jelly, pigments, creams, water and wipes must be discarded after each client.
11. Replace any sterile instruments or needles accidentally touched by the operator or contaminated in any way, either before or during a treatment, with another sterile instrument or needle.
12. Take care when inspecting needles for defects such as damaged or blunt points. Needles must never be tested for sharpness on the skin of the operator or client; self-illuminating magnifying glasses should be available to check needles for bluntness or barbs.
13. Each artist must use the approved "sharps" container supplied by the organisers in their booth for the disposal of used needles, razors etc. and all contaminated waste, wipes, gloves etc. must be disposed of in a separate "contaminated wastes" bin.
14. Ensure the client's skin is clean and free from infection or wounds on and around the tattoo site.
15. If the tattoo area needs to be shaved, use only a single-use safety razor for each client and immediately discard it after use into the sharps container.
16. Disinfect the site where the procedure will be carried out.
17. Use an antimicrobial lotion or plain liquid soap on the skin before placement of single-use stencil; multi-use deodorants must never be used.
18. Apply lubricating jelly to the tattoo site using a new single-use spatula for each client, if extra jelly is required, then use a new spatula, discard the spatula after each application, never use gloves or bare fingers.
19. Each artist must wash their hands in the separate hand wash basin (using antimicrobial or plain liquid soap) or use an alcohol based hand cleaner, before and after attending each client and before applying new gloves.
20. A new pair of plastic disposable gloves must be worn on each hand for each client. The use of sterile single-use gloves is encouraged; the use of non-sterile single-use gloves is the minimum requirement.

21. Hands must be washed in the designated hand wash basins after using the toilet, smoking, eating or taking a break. Hands are to be dried using a disposable paper towel and a new pair of single-use gloves must be put on before the next client.
22. Artists who are ill or have skin infections or sores must not perform a skin penetration procedure. Cuts must be covered by an appropriate waterproof band aid.
23. Where possible, avoid contaminating the work area with the client's blood, avoid cross contamination between surfaces.
24. When tattooing do not eat, drink or smoke.
25. If the client takes a break during the tattooing process, then cover the skin being tattooed with a dry clean dressing.
26. Use pre-dispensed cleaning solution and single-use wipes to remove excess pigment and blood from the tattoo site. Dispose of wipes into the clinical "contaminated wastes" bin.
27. When the tattoo or piercing is completed, clean the area with an anti-microbial solution, then remove gloves, wash and dry hands or use alcohol based hand cleaner, then re-glove using new single-use gloves.
28. Apply antiseptic cream from a single-use container using a single-use spatula; cover the tattoo or piercing site with a sterile dressing or plastic film held firmly in place by surgical tape. Remove gloves and wash and dry hands again.
29. Take time to explain and demonstrate to the client how to care for the tattoo or piercing to prevent infection, and provide the client with the same information in writing; ensure the client has fully understood these instructions.
30. Each artist/booth manager must provide appropriate storage for any clean linen, towels and safety clothing they are using in the booth to prevent soiling and contamination, and a separate suitable storage area for staff personal items.

Record Keeping:

Keep accurate records of every tattooing and piercing procedure for each client for at least 6 months. These records should include name, address, telephone number, email, the date, a description of the procedure, and sterilisation information relevant to the instruments used.

Accurate and detailed records are valuable to the body artist if there is any infection or possibility of a blood-borne virus transmission from a procedure. For example, in the case of a blood-borne virus, these records can be cross-checked for the probability for or against a reported infection as a result of a specific procedure. The records must be made available at the request of an authorised officer of local government i.e. Coffs Harbour City Council, or state health department, i.e. NSW Health.

Any artist who is found to be non-compliant with the legal requirements specified in this form will be prohibited from continuing to operate at the event until matters can be rectified. In cases where practices have caused serious health risk/s the artist will not be permitted to continue, and formal regulatory actions may be pursued in accordance with the Public Health Act 2010 (NSW).

Full given name/s	
Booth number	
Studio/business name	
Date	
Signature	