



BYELAWS RELATING TO TATTOOING

TATTOOING

Interpretation

1. (a) In these byelaws, unless the context otherwise requires:-

“The Act” means the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982;

“Client” means any person undergoing treatment;

“Operator” means any person giving treatment;

“Premises” means any premises registered under Part VIII of the Act;

“Proprietor” means any person registered under Part VIII of the Act;

“Treatment” means any operation in effecting tattooing;

“The treatment area” means any part of the premises where treatment is given to clients.

(b) The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the interpretation of these Byelaws as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2. For the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises and fittings therein a proprietor shall ensure that:-

(a) 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;

(b) The treatment area is used solely for giving treatment;

(c) The floor of the treatment area is provided with a smooth impervious surface;

(d) All waste material and other litter arising from the treatment, is placed in a leakproof liner bag contained within a covered receptacle which is washable and leakproof. The liner bag shall be changed at least once every working day or more frequently as necessary and shall be sealed prior to disposal.

(e) All needles intended for disposal are placed in disposable needle boxes designed for the purpose. The boxes shall be disposed of safely. All needles intended for re-use shall be placed in leakproof and washable containers capable of being sterilised. The containers shall be emptied at least once every working day or more frequently as necessary, and the needles and containers sterilised for re-use;

(f) All furniture and fittings in the premises are kept clean and in such good repair as to enable them to be cleaned effectively;

(g) All tables, couches and seats used by clients in the treatment area, and any surface on which the items specified in byelaw 3(b) are placed immediately prior to treatment, have a smooth impervious surface which is wiped down with a suitable disinfectant

between the treatment of different clients and thoroughly cleaned at the end of each working day;

- (h) Where tables or couches are used, they shall be covered by a disposable paper sheet which shall be changed for each client;
- (i) A notice or notices reading "NO SMOKING" are prominently displayed within the treatment area.

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

(a) 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 articles used in the treatment:-

- (i) is clean and in good repair and condition;
- (ii) has not previously been used in connection with any other client unless it consists of a material which can be and has been cleaned and so far as is appropriate sterilised;

(b) An operator shall ensure that:-

- (i) any needle, metal instrument or other item of equipment, used in treatment or for handling instruments and needles used in treatment, is in a sterile condition and kept sterile until it is used;
- (ii) all dyes used for tattooing are bacteriologically clean and inert;
- (iii) the containers used to hold the dyes for each client are either disposed of at the end of each session of treatments, or are sterilised before re-use;

(c) A proprietor shall provide:-

- (i) facilities and equipment for the purpose of sterilisation (unless pre-sterilised items are used) and of cleansing, as required in pursuance of these byelaws;
- (ii) sufficient and safe gas points and/or electrical socket outlets to enable compliance with these byelaws;
- (iii) a constant supply of clean hot and cold water readily available at all times on the premises;
- (iv) storage for all items mentioned in byelaws 3(a) and 3(b) above, so that those items shall be properly stored in a clean place so as to eliminate, as far as practicable, the risk of contamination.

4. For the purpose of securing cleanliness of operators:-

(a) an operator shall, whilst giving treatment, ensure that:-

- (i) his hands and nails are washed and scrubbed clean and his nails kept short;

- (ii) he is wearing a clean and washable overall or a disposable covering that has not previously been used with any other client;
 - (iii) he keeps any open boil, sore, cut or open wound on an exposed part of his body effectively covered by an impermeable dressing;
 - (iv) he does not smoke or consume food or drink;
 - (v) if he is a known Hepatitis B Surface Antigen Carrier he is wearing a clean face mask and clean disposable surgical gloves.
- (b) a proprietor shall provide:-
- (i) washing facilities in the treatment area for the sole use of operators, such facilities to have hot and cold water, sanitising soap or detergent and a nailbrush;
 - (ii) sanitary accommodation for operators;
 - (iv) first aid materials, for the purpose of compliance with byelaw 4(a)(iii) above.

NOTE – THE FOLLOWING DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE BYELAWS (Tattooing)

- (A) A proprietor shall take all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with these byelaws by persons working on the premises. Section 16(9) of the Act lays down that a registered person shall cause to be prominently displayed on the premises a copy of these byelaws and a copy of any certificate of registration issued to him under Part VIII of the Act.
- (B) Section 16(1) and (2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 provides that any person who offends against any of these byelaws shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £400. If the convicted person is registered under Part VIII of the Act, the Court may, instead of or in addition to imposing a fine, order the suspension or cancellation of his registration and of the registration of the premises in which the offence was committed if such premises are occupied by the person so convicted. Section 16(11) of the Act provides that it shall be a defence for the person charged to prove that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence.
- (C) Nothing in these byelaws shall extend to the carrying on of the business of tattooing by or under the supervision of a person who is registered as a medical practitioner or to premises on which any such business is carried on by or under the supervision of such a person.

HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
TOWN HALL
BEXHILL ON SEA
EAST SUSSEX
TN39 3JX
Tel No: 01424 787538

NOTE – PLEASE SEE PRACTICAL GUIDE TO HYGIENIC TATTOOING ATTACHED

PRACTICAL GUIDE TO HYGIENIC TATTOOING

This guide is issued by Rother District Council for your assistance – please read in conjunction with the relevant byelaws. The assistance of Professor Noah of Kings College University in preparing this guide is acknowledged.

Introduction

A small but significant percentage of cases of hepatitis B reported every year is associated with tattooing. It is vital that the process of tattooing is carried out in a hygienic manner. This guide is designed to help you, but if you have any queries, please contact this department and we will be happy to discuss them with you.

Tattooist Studio

General: The studio must be clean; floors and walls must be washable. A wash-hand basin with hot and cold water is essential. It must be in the tattooist's working room and must be supplied with sanitising soap and disposable paper towels (or a hot air hand dryer). A sink should be provided on the premises, not necessarily in the work room.

Table top and other surfaces: The table top must have a smooth impervious surface, such as plastic laminate, and must be in good repair. It must be washed down with hot water and detergent and disinfected between customers and at the end of each session. All other surfaces and shelves must have smooth, impervious surfaces and must be kept clean.

Personal hygiene: Good personal hygiene is essential. Clean washable clothing should be worn. Hands must be clean and nails kept short and clean. If the tattooist has a cut or abrasion or any type of skin infection, gloves must be worn while tattooing. (Vinyl examination gloves). They must be disposed of after one use. Although not essential for tattooing, you may wish to consider the routine use of gloves. They may afford some protection to you the tattooist if the customer happens to be a carrier.

Records: As a minimum you must record the name and address of the customer along with a record of the work done. This information could protect you. The stated age of younger customers should also be recorded, as well as the steps taken to verify it. (Tattooing of Minors Act 1963).

In order to comply with the Byelaws the following equipment will be required:

- Autoclave
- Ultrasonic cleaner
- Autoclavable metal syringe or metal spatula
- Disposable razor or metal safety razor with disposable blades
- Disposable capsules for pigments
- Wide bore glass tubes or metal tubes in racks for holding assembled machines
- Paper tissues, towels and cups
- "Sharps" – disposable box for needles
- Autoclavable container for needles eg kidney dish
- Metal forceps
- Alcohol-impregnated swabs (pre-packed)
- Disinfectants
- Pedal operated bin with disposable liner

Hygiene Procedure for Tattooists

Before each Session

- (a) Solder new needles on to rods. If reusable needles, wash needles and rods with hot water and detergent.
Wash tubes also with hot water and detergent.
- (b) Use the ultrasound on needles and needle bars.
- (c) Autoclave needles, rods and tubes and pair of forceps in a stainless steel dish or perforated metal dish. Leave in autoclave with door open at end of cycle to dry out.
- (d) Clean down table surfaces, taking note of manufacturer's instructions issued with disinfectant.

Before Tattooing

- (e) Wash and dry hands.
- (f) Place large fresh paper towel on table surface before customer places part to be tattooed on table. Place tissue or gauze used to dab tattoo area on towel.
- (g) Clean skin with spirit swab. Shave skin. Throw away razor.
- (h) If transfer is to be used, do this now.
- (i) Arrange required number of pigment capsules in holder, fill with pigment.
- (j) Smear Vaseline on area with spatula or gauze swab.
- (k) Attach sterilised needles etc to motors and begin tattooing.
- (l) Needles attached to motors must not be returned to holding tubes once tattooing has commenced.

After Tattooing

- (m) When tattooing has finished, disengage needles, rods and tubes from motor and place in kidney dish containing detergent and designated for used ('dirty') instruments.
- (n) Tip remains of pigment with capsules into plastic-lined bins.
- (o) Sellotape gauze to tattooed area.
- (p) Remove paper and all swabs or tissues used on customer; place in bin.
- (q) Damp wipe motors.
- (r) Clean down table surfaces.
Then begin at (e) again.

At End of Session

- (s) Take 'dirty' dish containing used needles etc to sink and wash thoroughly with hot water and detergent. Take care!
- (t) Also wash forceps and capsule holders.
- (u) Burn off needles if they are not being reused, and place in sharps box.
- (v) Ultrasound reusable needles and holders.
- (w) Autoclave needles, holders, tubes, forceps, holding tubes and capsule holders.