



# Appearance Industries Code of Practice Summary

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## Part 3: Piercing of the Skin

**Minimum standards for all operators who pierce the skin.** All operators who pierce the skin must comply with this section and also any of the relevant sections from 3A to 3E.

### **Age restrictions:**

- You must not carry out any commercial specified skin piercing service on any person under the age of 16 years unless their parent or guardian gives written consent. This does not apply to tattooing.
- You must not carry out tattooing on any person under the age of 18 years unless their parent or guardian gives written consent.

**Getting consent:** Any customer who wishes to undergo any specified service that pierces the skin, must complete and sign a customer consent form. This consent form must provide the opportunity for the customer to notify you if they suffer from any communicable disease, skin disease, haemophilia, allergies to pigments or dyes, epilepsy, asthma, diabetes, heart conditions, have a pacemaker or take blood thinning medications.

You can decline to carry out the procedure or put appropriate safeguards in place, based on the information provided.

**Provide advice on precautions:** Before starting any specified service which pierces the skin, you must:

- Let the customer know about the risks involved including the potential for infection during and after the service.
- Give written advice about aftercare procedures.
- Let the customer know they should contact a doctor immediately if they experience any complications.

Your aftercare instructions should cover:

- wound cleaning
- drying and dressing the wound
- recognising the signs of infection
- specific instructions for that type of piercing

**Keeping records:** You need to keep records of:

- the consent form
- a record of the date of service, type of service and where on the body you performed the service

You need to keep these records secure and confidential for at least two 2 years. You must show them to council when they ask you to.

**First aid:** There must be at least one operator on site who has a current first aid certificate (eg, St John's or Red Cross) at all times.

**Hand washing and gloves:** Before starting any specified service, you must wash your hands up to the wrists using an antibacterial soap. Dry them using a single use disposable towel or hand dryer.

Use a nailbrush on your nails and hands if necessary.

You must cover your hands with clean, single use, disposable gloves before starting any specified skin service.

Gloves must be single use and disposable and should never be reused.

**Skin preparation:** Before starting the specified skin service, you must:

- evaluate the skin
- discuss any skin condition that may lead to irritation
- clean the customers skin using an appropriate antiseptic

Only work on one customer at a time.

**Skin piercing instruments:** You must use single use disposable instruments for piercing the skin or clean and sterilise your equipment as below:

- Any device used on a mucous membrane must be single-use and disposable (eg, marker pen).
- Any instrument with a hollow tube must be single use and disposable (eg, tattoo needle).
- Any instrument used to pierce the skin must be taken from the package in front of the customer. The package must be undamaged and must have a manufacturer label stating the contents have been sterilised. The item must not have been exposed to contamination during storage.
- You must keep the instruments sterile.

**After piercing the skin:**

- Immediately dispose of all single-use sharps in a dry puncture resistant container.
- Clean, disinfect and sterilise any reusable equipment. See sterilisation section.
- Store sterile equipment in a clean, dust free area.

You must be able to show the council officer how you dispose of contaminated waste.

**Cleaning and disinfecting:** Any instrument which does not need to be sterile must be disinfected by thermal or chemical disinfection following product specific recommended contact time.

Any surfaces used for pre-packaging or sterilisation activities should be disinfected before use.

Don't use a disinfectant if it's past its use by date.

**Sterilisation:** You must display clear written instructions where you clean and/or sterilise instruments.

You must sterilise all non-disposable instruments for piercing the skin after each use, by washing them in warm water and detergent.

If you are using an ultrasonic cleaner and exposing them to steam:

- Exposure to steam must happen within a steriliser (autoclave) following the manufacturer's instructions.
- The autoclave must have time, temperature, and pressure gauges.
- You need to use indicator tape/strips with each batch of tools you process. If the tape/strip doesn't change colour you must reprocess the load.
- Any reusable equipment that has been autoclaved should have its indicator tape attached to show it has been sterilised.

During each use the gauges must be monitored to ensure that correct times, temperatures, and pressures are reached:

- You must record the time, temperature, and pressure readings of each load.
- You must carry out and record regular spore testing.
- The autoclave must be serviced as per manufacturer's instructions. Records must be kept for 2 years and be available to council on request.

OR you can:

- Clean in warm water and detergent and exposing to dry heat for at least 60 minutes at 170 degrees Celsius and over.

OR:

- Clean in warm water and detergent and then immersing in a glass bead steriliser at 250 degrees Celsius for a minimum of 5 minutes.

OR:

- Clean in a way appropriate for the instrument. You must have this process of sterilisation approved by council.

If the hand piece of your equipment could be damaged by sterilisation, clean it with a paper towel saturated with one of the following:

- Industrial methylated spirit solution.
- Ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol (70 per cent alcohol at least).
- Iralclean or a similar approved solution.

**Additional recommended best practice – recommended but not compulsory**

For your protection:

- We highly recommend getting immunised against Hepatitis B.
- Wear protective clothing when performing services where you could get splashed with blood or body fluids.
- Wear eye protection and/or face shields when performing close up procedures which may cause aerosols or splashes of blood or body fluids.
- Only operate ultrasonic cleaners with the lid closed.

**Note:** This summary sheet is provided only for information and does not replace or supplement the Hutt City Council Bylaw Code of Practice.