



# Appearance industries code of practice summary

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## Part 3: Piercing of the skin

**Minimum standards 3C: Traditional Tools Tattooing.** All operators who pierce the skin must comply with this section and also any of the relevant sections from 3A to 3E.

You must give your customers information about infection risks associated with traditional tattooing.

It's your responsibility to make sure you and your customer are safe through good hygiene.

**Cleaning, disinfecting, and sterilising:** Also see Part 3: Piercing of the skin, Minimum standards for all operators.

Traditional tools used for tattooing should be sterilised as in Part 3. If sterilisation might damage a tool used in traditional tattooing. You can use the following techniques:

- Scrub tools underwater with a brush and cleaning agent.
- If possible, clean the tools and scrubbing implements in an ultra-sonic cleaner following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Soak tools and scrubbing implements in Perasafe solution (or equivalent) mixed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and soaked for at least 20 minutes; then
  - Cleanse with clean water; then
  - Allow the tools to air dry for at least 45 minutes before reuse, and protect them from contaminants; and
  - Keep tools in a clean, sterile state.

**Principles for healthy and hygienic tattooing:** You must have the experience to perform safe and hygienic services in clean premises. You must be aware of the risks and know the safety measures to take to lower the possibility of infection.

You must observe these basic principles:

- Keep your shop clean and hygienic.
- Any article used for piercing the skin must be sterile.

- Any instrument that has pierced the skin or is contaminated with blood must be either disposed of immediately, as infectious, or biological waste, or be cleaned and sterilised before being used on another customer.
- Cover any cuts, abrasions, or wounds on your hands. Do not smoke during the tattooing process.
- You must keep yourself and your clothing clean.
- As an employer in the traditional tools tattooing industry, you should provide staff with training in hygiene, infection control and first aid.
- You should be aware of your Hepatitis B status. Get vaccinated against Hepatitis B if you're at risk.

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

**Cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising**

Apply disinfectants to the skin using a pump pack and wiping with a clean single-use disposable cloth. Or you can put skin disinfectants into a single-use disposable container. At the end of the tattooing procedure, place any remaining fluid and single-use disposable cloths in a hazardous and infectious waste container.

- PeraSafe or other similar products are developed to sterilise items made of plastic and rubber and other materials that cannot be cleaned in an autoclave. This is the best option for sterilising traditional tattooing tools, made from porous materials like bone. Mix the solution correctly following the manufacturer's instructions. If you don't use enough powder, the solution may not be effective. If too much powder is used, your tools might get damaged.
- Autoclaves are considered by the Ministry of Health to be the 'gold standard in sterilization' as such they are recommended as best practice.

**Additional Standards**

The following standards are also relevant:

- The Ministry of Health 'Guidelines for the Safe Piercing of Skin'.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 'Tattoo and Permanent Makeup Group Substances Standard'.

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