Comparison of Guidelines and Regulatory Frameworks for Personal Services Establishments

Author: Karen Rideout

Personal services establishments (PSEs) have been identified as a priority area by public health inspectors (PHIs) and provincial ministry staff in several provinces, as well as by people within the industry. There are a lot of gaps and conflicting information regarding public health issues associated with PSEs. Guidelines and regulations are often vague or impractical. In general, there is a lack of training and licensing of both practitioners and business owners within the personal services industry. The level of public health guidance for PSEs varies across jurisdictions within Canada and other countries. While guidelines for more common procedures such as aesthetics, tattooing, and body piercing vary in comprehensiveness, there is a general lack of guidance relating to more extreme forms of body modification. Because the personal services industry is constantly changing, it may be prudent to develop risk assessment procedures for infection prevention and control (IPAC) in these settings, as well as tools to assess risk from failure of IPAC procedures in any personal services setting. As invasive body modification grows in popularity and range of procedures, there is an increasing need to clarify when a procedure falls under the auspices of invasive surgery and whether it should be regulated as such.

What follows is a summary of the regulatory frameworks, as well as highlights and gaps from existing guidelines/regulations, from select jurisdictions within and outside Canada. It is important to note that this is not an exhaustive summary of the guidelines; it highlights some key areas that may be particularly relevant, problematic, or those that vary most between jurisdictions.

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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>- Tattooing&lt;br&gt;- Body piercing&lt;br&gt;- Electrolysis</td>
<td>Health Canada Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Personal Services: Tattooing, Ear/Body Piercing, and Electrolysis&lt;br&gt;Note: Document has been retired.</td>
<td>PSEs are governed by provincial level authority in Canada.&lt;br&gt;Recommendation that staff obtain infection control training via local public health units.</td>
<td><strong>Tattoo &amp; Piercing</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Should have clean and dirty zones.&lt;br&gt;- Machines should be foot operated where possible.&lt;br&gt;- Ultrasonic cleaner should have lid.&lt;br&gt;- Avoid touching office equipment; cover with plastic or disinfect after each client; change gloves if equipment touched during procedure.&lt;br&gt;- Records should be kept for minimum 1 year or as per local requirements.&lt;br&gt;- Disinfectants should have DIN.&lt;br&gt;- Detailed instructions provided regarding:&lt;br&gt;- instrument cleaning&lt;br&gt;- environment cleaning&lt;br&gt;- sterilization with different methods.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Tattoo</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Needles should not be rinsed in ultrasonic between colours because ultrasonic solution is not sterile; use tap</td>
<td><strong>Removal of needles and reuse of needle bars permitted in tattooing.</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Use of solid head ear-piercing guns, which cannot be properly disinfected, is allowed.</td>
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<td>Alberta</td>
<td>• Tattooing&lt;br&gt;• Body and ear piercing&lt;br&gt;• Barbering and hairstyling – defined by Hairstylist Trade Regulation (AR 281/2000)&lt;br&gt;• Esthetics – applying make-up, facials, manicures, pedicures, waxing&lt;br&gt;• Electrolysis</td>
<td>Alberta Regulation 20/2003, Public Health Act, Personal Services Regulation (2003)&lt;br&gt;Health Standards and Guidelines for Tattooing (2002)&lt;br&gt;Health Standards and Guidelines for Body and Ear Piercing (2002)&lt;br&gt;Health Standards and Guidelines for Barbering and Hairstyling (2002)&lt;br&gt;Health Standards and Guidelines for Esthetics (2002)&lt;br&gt;Health Standards and Guidelines for Electrolysis (2002)&lt;br&gt;Regional guidelines and checklists (e.g., Capital Health/Edmonton inspection checklists for tattooing and piercing).&lt;br&gt;Note: Provincial legislation is almost 10 years old and is expected to change in the near future. A new Departmental Standard Operating Procedure, Personal Service Establishment Inspection Protocol, will begin field testing in July 2010.</td>
<td>Annual inspection by public health inspector of high risk personal service establishments. This is set out in provincial Blue Book (A Common Reference System and Operational Standards for Alberta); actual practice differs by region. Operators are not required to have specific knowledge of their trade or demonstrate a level of competency. No permit or licence required; studios may open without health approval.</td>
<td>water instead.&lt;br&gt;• Skin antiseptics should not be sprayed directly onto skin.&lt;br&gt;• Deodorant sticks not recommended for stencilling.</td>
<td>• No specifications for foot bath disinfection.&lt;br&gt;• Thorough cleaning of nail files and foot paddles is not possible.&lt;br&gt;• Legislation is weak. The word should is used when many items require shall. For example, operators should ensure that all critical instruments are sterile.&lt;br&gt;• No legislation requirement for physical, chemical, or biological monitoring of sterilizers.&lt;br&gt;• Use of spray bottles (vs squirt bottles or pumps) for disinfectants presents risk of aerosolization of disinfectant and possibly contaminated debris.&lt;br&gt;• Removal of needles and reuse of needle bars in tattooing is permitted (but uncommon in practice).&lt;br&gt;• Use of non-disposable piercing guns is allowed; these cannot be properly disinfected.&lt;br&gt;• Reusable marking pens permitted for marking skin present risk for cross-contamination.&lt;br&gt;• Recommendation that physicians remove jewellery if infected; evidence is unclear whether this is best practice.&lt;br&gt;• No instruction to cover ultrasonic when in use presents risk for contamination</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Region | Personal Services Included | Regulatory Authority & Guidelines | Enforcement, Training & Licensing | Specifics and Highlights | Gaps & Potential Hazards (Identified by NCCEH)
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
British Columbia | • Acrylic nails | Health Act – [Personal Services Establishments Regulation](https://www.gov.bc.ca/docs/enact/legislation/gov/1st/202/202202.pdf), BC Reg 202/83 - OC 912/83.\(^7\) | Education and graduated warning system. | Tattoo | • Difficult to classify some instruments as critical, semi-critical, etc.
• Lacking details on how not to double-dip in waxing procedures.
• Reusable marking pens permitted for marking skin presents risk for cross-contamination.
• Jewellery may be disinfected in alcohol for 5-10 min (not necessarily sterilized).
• Rinsing of tattoo needles in ultrasonic between colours presents risk of aerosolization and contamination.
• Practicability of disinfection options for different equipment (e.g., equipment compatibility) not considered, especially in aesthetics.
• No guidelines for many invasive body modification procedures.
• No minimum age for tattooing or piercing procedures.
• No risk assessment framework for infection prevention and control (IPAC) in regulations or guidelines.
| • Body piercing | Note: The Regulation pertains to water supply and facilities and prevention of health hazards; it is brief and open to interpretation. | No specific training or licensing required for operators or establishments. | | | through spray.
• Roller wax applicators permitted; roller head must be taken apart, cleaned, and disinfected but no specification to discard wax cartridge.
• Makeup may be applied to skin with infections or lesions, if disposable applicators are used or are cleaned with HLD.
• Reuse of callus removal blades presents infection risk.
• Single-use disposable blades recommended but not required; reusable razor blades shall be cleaned with intermediate disinfection.
• No standards for jewellery composition.
| • Colonic irrigation | Guidelines are available for: | Business licence and approval by health inspector required. | | | • Informed consent required; parental consent recommended for minors.
• Deodorant sticks for tattoo stencils should be used with disposable applicator.
• Needles, tubes, and bars should be sterilized prior to use; needles should be single use only.
| • Electrolysis | • PSEs\(^10\) | | | | • Difficult to classify some instruments as critical, semi-critical, etc.
• Lacking details on how not to double-dip in waxing procedures.
• Reusable marking pens permitted for marking skin presents risk for cross-contamination.
• Jewellery may be disinfected in alcohol for 5-10 min (not necessarily sterilized).
• Rinsing of tattoo needles in ultrasonic between colours presents risk of aerosolization and contamination.
• Practicability of disinfection options for different equipment (e.g., equipment compatibility) not considered, especially in aesthetics.
• No guidelines for many invasive body modification procedures.
• No minimum age for tattooing or piercing procedures.
• No risk assessment framework for infection prevention and control (IPAC) in regulations or guidelines.
| • Face painting | • Ear & Body Piercing\(^11\) | | | | • Difficult to classify some instruments as critical, semi-critical, etc.
• Lacking details on how not to double-dip in waxing procedures.
• Reusable marking pens permitted for marking skin presents risk for cross-contamination.
• Jewellery may be disinfected in alcohol for 5-10 min (not necessarily sterilized).
• Rinsing of tattoo needles in ultrasonic between colours presents risk of aerosolization and contamination.
• Practicability of disinfection options for different equipment (e.g., equipment compatibility) not considered, especially in aesthetics.
• No guidelines for many invasive body modification procedures.
• No minimum age for tattooing or piercing procedures.
• No risk assessment framework for infection prevention and control (IPAC) in regulations or guidelines.
| • Flotation tanks | • Tattooing\(^12\) | | | | • Difficult to classify some instruments as critical, semi-critical, etc.
• Lacking details on how not to double-dip in waxing procedures.
• Reusable marking pens permitted for marking skin presents risk for cross-contamination.
• Jewellery may be disinfected in alcohol for 5-10 min (not necessarily sterilized).
• Rinsing of tattoo needles in ultrasonic between colours presents risk of aerosolization and contamination.
• Practicability of disinfection options for different equipment (e.g., equipment compatibility) not considered, especially in aesthetics.
• No guidelines for many invasive body modification procedures.
• No minimum age for tattooing or piercing procedures.
• No risk assessment framework for infection prevention and control (IPAC) in regulations or guidelines.
| • Hair services | • Tanning Salon Operators\(^13\) | | | | • Difficult to classify some instruments as critical, semi-critical, etc.
• Lacking details on how not to double-dip in waxing procedures.
• Reusable marking pens permitted for marking skin presents risk for cross-contamination.
• Jewellery may be disinfected in alcohol for 5-10 min (not necessarily sterilized).
• Rinsing of tattoo needles in ultrasonic between colours presents risk of aerosolization and contamination.
• Practicability of disinfection options for different equipment (e.g., equipment compatibility) not considered, especially in aesthetics.
• No guidelines for many invasive body modification procedures.
• No minimum age for tattooing or piercing procedures.
• No risk assessment framework for infection prevention and control (IPAC) in regulations or guidelines.
| • Hand care/aesthetics | | | | | • Difficult to classify some instruments as critical, semi-critical, etc.
• Lacking details on how not to double-dip in waxing procedures.
• Reusable marking pens permitted for marking skin presents risk for cross-contamination.
• Jewellery may be disinfected in alcohol for 5-10 min (not necessarily sterilized).
• Rinsing of tattoo needles in ultrasonic between colours presents risk of aerosolization and contamination.
• Practicability of disinfection options for different equipment (e.g., equipment compatibility) not considered, especially in aesthetics.
• No guidelines for many invasive body modification procedures.
• No minimum age for tattooing or piercing procedures.
• No risk assessment framework for infection prevention and control (IPAC) in regulations or guidelines.
| • Hair services | | | | | • Difficult to classify some instruments as critical, semi-critical, etc.
• Lacking details on how not to double-dip in waxing procedures.
• Reusable marking pens permitted for marking skin presents risk for cross-contamination.
• Jewellery may be disinfected in alcohol for 5-10 min (not necessarily sterilized).
• Rinsing of tattoo needles in ultrasonic between colours presents risk of aerosolization and contamination.
• Practicability of disinfection options for different equipment (e.g., equipment compatibility) not considered, especially in aesthetics.
• No guidelines for many invasive body modification procedures.
• No minimum age for tattooing or piercing procedures.
• No risk assessment framework for infection prevention and control (IPAC) in regulations or guidelines.
| • Head care/aesthetics | | | | | • Difficult to classify some instruments as critical, semi-critical, etc.
• Lacking details on how not to double-dip in waxing procedures.
• Reusable marking pens permitted for marking skin presents risk for cross-contamination.
• Jewellery may be disinfected in alcohol for 5-10 min (not necessarily sterilized).
• Rinsing of tattoo needles in ultrasonic between colours presents risk of aerosolization and contamination.
• Practicability of disinfection options for different equipment (e.g., equipment compatibility) not considered, especially in aesthetics.
• No guidelines for many invasive body modification procedures.
• No minimum age for tattooing or piercing procedures.
• No risk assessment framework for infection prevention and control (IPAC) in regulations or guidelines.
| • Health services | | | | | • Difficult to classify some instruments as critical, semi-critical, etc.
• Lacking details on how not to double-dip in waxing procedures.
• Reusable marking pens permitted for marking skin presents risk for cross-contamination.
• Jewellery may be disinfected in alcohol for 5-10 min (not necessarily sterilized).
• Rinsing of tattoo needles in ultrasonic between colours presents risk of aerosolization and contamination.
• Practicability of disinfection options for different equipment (e.g., equipment compatibility) not considered, especially in aesthetics.
• No guidelines for many invasive body modification procedures.
• No minimum age for tattooing or piercing procedures.
• No risk assessment framework for infection prevention and control (IPAC) in regulations or guidelines.
| • Hands | | | | | • Difficult to classify some instruments as critical, semi-critical, etc.
• Lacking details on how not to double-dip in waxing procedures.
• Reusable marking pens permitted for marking skin presents risk for cross-contamination.
• Jewellery may be disinfected in alcohol for 5-10 min (not necessarily sterilized).
• Rinsing of tattoo needles in ultrasonic between colours presents risk of aerosolization and contamination.
• Practicability of disinfection options for different equipment (e.g., equipment compatibility) not considered, especially in aesthetics.
• No guidelines for many invasive body modification procedures.
• No minimum age for tattooing or piercing procedures.
• No risk assessment framework for infection prevention and control (IPAC) in regulations or guidelines.

\(^5\) Differences in recommendations regarding personal services in BC and Canada were noted.\(^6\) The regulation pertains to water supply and facilities and prevention of health hazards. It is brief and open to interpretation.\(^7\) Guidance on the Health Act – Personal Services Establishments Regulation is available in: \(\underline{\text{BC Reg 202/83 - OC 912/83.}}\)

Note: The Regulation pertains to water supply and facilities and prevention of health hazards; it is brief and open to interpretation. Guidelines are available for:

- PSEs\(^10\)
- Ear & Body Piercing\(^11\)
- Tattooing\(^12\)
- Tanning Salon Operators\(^13\)

Cosmetology Industry Association of BC (CIABC) planning to offer voluntary training/certification program called \(\text{BeautySafe}^{14}\).\(^14\) Details provided regarding:

- sterile implements
- disposable tray covers
- autoclaves
- illumination to detect blood vessels
- surface disinfection

Practicality of disinfection options for different equipment (e.g., equipment compatibility) not considered, especially in aesthetics.

No guidelines for many invasive body modification procedures.

No minimum age for tattooing or piercing procedures.

No risk assessment framework for infection prevention and control (IPAC) in regulations or guidelines.
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| Ontario | Hairdressing, Tattooing, Body piercing, Manicure/pedicure, Electrolysis, Acupuncture | **Ontario Public Health Standards**<sup>12</sup>  
**Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Personal Services Settings**,<sup>16</sup> January 2009 (named under Ontario Public Health Standards, 2008, requirement no. 10)  
**Infection Prevention and Control in Personal Services Settings Protocol**,<sup>17</sup> 2008  
**Note**: Provides minimum expectations for service.  
CIPHI Ontario fact sheets:  
* Body Piercing<sup>18</sup>  
* Facials<sup>13</sup>  
* Foot Spas<sup>20</sup>  
* Hair Salons and Barber Shops<sup>21</sup>  
* Manicures, Pedicures and Nails<sup>22</sup>  
* Tattoo and Micropigmentation<sup>23</sup>  
* Waxing<sup>24</sup> | Authority by Boards of Health  
Inspection at least annually and in response to complaint or non-compliance; by MOH or designate.  
**Tattoo**  
* Detailed tattoo set-up instructions provided.  
* Needles should be rinsed in tap water between colours, using disposable cups.  
**Piercing**  
* Approved sharps containers required.  
* Detailed sterilization instructions provided.  
* Skin antiseptics must be used prior to invasive procedure.  
* Ear studs from sealed packs only.  
**Aesthetics**  
* Footbaths must be cleaned and disinfected between clients and at end of day.  
* Quaternary ammonium solutions in hair salons should be next to sink to allow for appropriate rinsing and cleaning.  
* Scissors and clippers require intermediate to high level disinfection between clients, if skin is nicked or broken.  
* High-level disinfection should be used for any instrument that accidentally breaks skin.  
* Detailed instructions provided regarding:  
  - roll-on wax  
  - footbath cleaning. |  
* Lack of detail on frequency and timing of glove changes.  
* Reusable skin marking pens permitted; presents risk for cross-contamination.  
* Gloves may be put on after cleaning clients' skin.  
* Recommendation to rotate jewellery; evidence is unclear whether this is best practice.  
* Roll on wax presents a cross-contamination risk.  
* No standards for jewellery composition. |
| United States | Barbering and Cosmetology: Cosmetologists | **AB 223 Assembly Bill**<sup>25</sup>, Amendment to repeal Health and Safety Code Sections 119300-119309. New section Body Art | California Health and Safety Code:  
* California Conference of Local Health Officers establish  
**Tattoo & Piercing**  
* Infraction for any person to perform or offer to perform body piercing to a |  
* Prohibited instrument guidelines (Regulation 993) can be vague.  
* Inspection rate is less than once per |
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<td>• Manicurists</td>
<td>(will include significantly more detailed and prescriptive regulations including restrictions on body modification, mandatory immunization for workers, procedures/standards for sanitation/sterilization, and enforcement, etc.).</td>
<td>sterilization, sanitation, and safety standards.</td>
<td>person under 18 years of age unless piercing is performed in the presence of, or directed under, notarized writing by person’s parent or guardian; ear piercing and emancipated minor is exempt (California Penal Code: section 652).</td>
<td>year. Note: 25 inspectors for 38,000 barbering/cosmetology shops.</td>
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<td>• Estheticians</td>
<td>California Health and Safety Code - Section 119300-119309*</td>
<td>Businesses that provide tattooing, piercing or body modification must register with their respective county health department.</td>
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<td>• Electrologists</td>
<td>California Penal Code: Section 652 and 653**</td>
<td>Enforcement: 1. Failure to register with county health department (if providing these services) - $500 maximum fine; 2. Non-compliance with safety standards - $500 maximum fine per violation.</td>
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<td>• Barbers</td>
<td>Health and Safety Regulation (Article 12)**</td>
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<td>• Apprentices and</td>
<td>California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.**</td>
<td>Fine structure for barbering and cosmetology</td>
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<td>establishments</td>
<td>Department of Consumer Affairs</td>
<td>• Progressive fine rates used previously.</td>
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<td>offering these services</td>
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<td>• Fines were increased (especially for foot spas) with an immediate licence suspension for serious infractions resulting in a requirement for health and safety training, $500 fine, and increased inspections; this initially caused some panic in the industry.</td>
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<td>Tattooing/Permanent</td>
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<td>• Unlicensed activity subject to a $1000 fine.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>makeup</td>
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<td>• The establishment and individual licensee are responsible.</td>
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<td>Body piercing</td>
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<td>• Anecdotal evidence indicates that increased fines are working, as it is no longer “worth the risk” to break the rules (K. Flanagan, 2 Nov 09).</td>
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<td>• Complete list of fines available online.</td>
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<td>Licensees must have approved training, apprenticeship, or equivalent experience.</td>
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<td>Establishment owners are responsible, even if there are booth rentals or contractors within the</td>
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*California Health and Safety Code section 119300-119309
**California Penal Code: Sections 652 and 653
***Health and Safety Regulation (Article 12)
****California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology
*****Department of Consumer Affairs
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<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Barbering, Body piercing, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Nails, Tattooing, Waxing</td>
<td>Board for Barbers and Cosmetology, Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation</td>
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| | * Regulations and Statutes[^34] | | establishment that are operated by other individuals. Owners do not need a licence but there must be a licensed person in charge. **Note:** There’s a possibility of introducing health and safety training for owners. | - pencil cosmetics  
- tables and headrests  
- skin peels  
- prohibited instruments  
- personal hygiene  
- building  
- FDA approved products  
- infestation  
- hair disposal  
* Photos illustrating prohibited instruments[^31] available.  
- No specific requirements for cleaning foot spas.  
- Licensing and regulation is comprehensive but does not cover many procedures, e.g., body modification and body piercers cannot practice outside scope of training; unclear whether more extreme procedures are prohibited or simply unregulated; unclear whether body modification industry is *underground.*  

Barbering and Cosmetology/Esthetics  
- Powder puffs, makeup, sponges, etc. that cannot be sanitized are prohibited from use on multiple clients.  
- Emory boards are single use only.  
- Multiuse articles that cannot be cleansed or disinfected are prohibited.  
- Detailed instructions provided regarding:  
  - electric clippers  
  - brushes, spatulas, electrodes, etc.  
  - wax pots  
  - drill bits  

Tattooing and Piercing  
- Minimum age for piercing (except |
### United Kingdom

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| **UK** | • Tattooing  
• Acupuncture  
• Ear-piercing  
• Body piercing  
• Electrolysis  
• Micropigmentation  
• Hairdressing  
• Esthetics | PHLS Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre / London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (Dr. Norman Noah)  
Local Government Act 1982, Part VIII  
Acupuncture, Tattooing, Ear-Piercing, and Electrolysis  
**Note:** These 1982 guidelines were revised in 2003 (see information below); some of this information is outdated by the revised guidelines, some still current. | All who practice acupuncture, tattooing, cosmetic skin piercing, and hair electrolysis must register with health and local authorities.  
Body piercers advised to obtain licence from EH Dept at Local Authority.  
Local Authorities have power to make bylaws (e.g., sanitation, facilities, operators) and regulate registrants. | **Tattoo**  
• Reusable stainless needles must be cleaned with ultrasonic, then autoclaved; chromium plate needles are single use only.  
• Used needles should be disinfected before discarding, with flame, autoclave, boiling, or hypochlorite solution soak for 30 min.  
• All non-sharp waste (paper towels, tissue, ink capsules) should be sealed in plastic and autoclaved or incinerated.  
**Piercing**  
• All instruments that contact broken skin (earlobe) or tattooing is 18 years or with consent of parent/guardian; signed informed consent kept for 2 years; earlobe piercing permitted on children.  
• Salon owners shall offer Hepatitis B vaccine to licensees; proof of immunization, immunity status, or signed waiver of offer shall be posted.  
• Steam sterilizers shall be spore tested monthly and verified by independent laboratory; records kept for 3 years.  
• Handwashing and new gloves shall follow any interruption in service or breach of glove.  
• Standard precautions and aseptic technique shall be used at all times.  
• Razors shall be single use disposable.  
• Used instruments shall be rinsed in hot water and ultrasonically cleaned or brush scrubbed before sterilization.  
• Minimum 5 hours of health education including blood-borne disease, sterilization, and aseptic technique required prior to entering tattoo school.  
• Gloves must be worn during tattoo equipment setup.  
• Tattoo inks and dyes shall be in single use containers for each client. | **Nose and upper ear-piercing concerns**  
Focus on infection, but no recognition of cartilage shatter.  
**Ear cartilage piercing allowed with piercing guns; not normally recommended due to risk for tissue damage.**  
Scissor cleaning guidelines vague.  
Use of glass bead sterilizers permitted; these are not effective sterilizers.  
Gloves not required for tattooing.  
Resterilizable tattoo needles permitted.  
Use of unpackaged items in bench top steam sterilizers present risk of post-sterilization contamination. |
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<td>should be autoclaved before use.</td>
<td>• Use of pens for marking skin, and skin</td>
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<td>• Body piercing should be performed by experienced practitioner (recommended to have licence from Local Authority) with the use of sterilized/pre-sterilized disposable needles only. Body piercing gun with hollow needle available for nipple piercings. Ear-piercing guns must not be used for other body parts due to short pins that may pinch flesh and lead to restriction of movement, discomfort, and infection.</td>
<td>is not disinfected prior to marking, is a risk for cross-contamination.</td>
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<td>• Fully disposable or disposable cartridge guns only; other guns not recommended.</td>
<td>• Reuse of mascara wands present risk for cross-contamination.</td>
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<td>• Aftercare for ear-piercing is simply to keep clean and dry; void antibiotic lotions and disinfectants other than alcohol.</td>
<td>Double-dipping in wax pots permitted unless skin is broken or bleeding; presents infection risk.</td>
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<td>• Nose piercing not recommended but if done, piercing guns acceptable but cannot be later used for ear-piercing because of nasal bacteria in mucous membranes; disposable guns preferred but not recommended; risks must be explained to client.</td>
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<td>• Ear cartilage piercing allowed with piercing guns.</td>
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<td>• Piercing of glans and urethra may scar urethra and should only be done by skilled and experienced piercers.</td>
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<td>• Piercer should do surgical scrub prior to procedure.</td>
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<td>• Stretching of piercings should be 10% increase fortnightly (every 2 weeks).</td>
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<td><strong>Aesthetics</strong></td>
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<td>• Wax should not be filtered and reused.</td>
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<td>• All hard instruments (tweezers, extractors, scissors, cuticle nipples, nail clippers, etc.) should be sterilized.</td>
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<td>• Brushes for eyelid, eyebrow, and lip need special cleaning – hot water and detergent wash + 15 min alcohol soak + drying; other brushes need only hot</td>
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<td>water and detergent unless skin is broken or infected. Mascara wands that don’t enter eye or inner eyelid don’t need special care.</td>
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<td>• Pencils should be sharpened and wiped with alcohol.</td>
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<td>• Avoid razors on head; avoid electric razors due to sterilization difficulties; use disposable blades and disinfect razor.</td>
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<td>• Scissors or clippers or crochet hooks that penetrate skin must be autoclaved, use glass bead sterilizer, or boiled/steamed; otherwise, 70% alcohol or chlorhexidine for 15-30 min.</td>
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<td>• Only alcohol disinfectant and bleach recommended in hair salons, due to chemical hazards.</td>
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<td>• UV sterilizers not recommended and not considered sterilizers.</td>
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<td>• Used razors and other sharp items must be disposed in specific sharps disposal box.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Cosmetic piercing</td>
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<td>• Skin-colouring (micropigmentation, semi-permanent makeup, temporary tattooing)</td>
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<td>Local Government Act 2003 (Section 120 and Schedule 6)[61]</td>
<td>Local Government Act 2003:</td>
<td>• Amendments give powers to local authorities in England (outside London) and Wales, allowing them to require businesses providing tattoo and piercing services to register with the local authorities and observe bylaws.</td>
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<td>Tattooing of Minors Act 1969 Female Circumcision Act 1985</td>
<td>Tattooing of Minors Act 1969 Female Circumcision Act 1985</td>
<td>Amendment extends the 1982 laws to include “cosmetic body piercing and semi-permanent skin colouring businesses”. Other types of piercing besides ear-piercing were not covered by local authorities in England (outside London) and Wales.</td>
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<td>HSE – Local Authority Circular Number 76/2[62]</td>
<td>HSE – Local Authority Circular Number 76/2</td>
<td>No standardized training or licensing. Habia (<a href="http://www.habia.org)%5C%5B63%5C">www.habia.org)\[63\</a>] is the standards setting body, but currently no standards exist except for tattooing and body piercing.</td>
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<td>Tattoo and Piercing</td>
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<td>• Gloves should be changed when punctured or contaminated.</td>
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<td>• Ultrasonic should be used with lid to prevent aerosolization; requires periodic functional testing.</td>
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<td>• Bleach used for disinfection should state</td>
<td>Use of unpackaged items in bench top steam sterilizers present risk of post-sterilization contamination..</td>
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<td>chlorine activity on label.</td>
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<td>• Hot ovens, water boilers, UV light, or glass bead sterilizers must not be used for sterilization.</td>
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<td>• Standards for sterile packaging (BS EN 868-4:1999), indicators (ISO 11140 part 1), sharps containers (BS 7320 1990).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Needles, tubes, grips, and tips for piercing should be pre-packaged, pre-sterilized, single use.</td>
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<td>• Operators should be trained in giving aftercare advice.</td>
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<td><strong>Piercing</strong></td>
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<td>• Some form of steam sterilization must be on site for piercing premises, even if hospital sterile services are routinely used.</td>
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<td>• Aftercare advice: no submersion of piercing for 4 days to allow drying of wound; avoid use of skin disinfecting chemicals.</td>
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<td>• Glossary of common problems following piercing provided.</td>
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<td>• Glossary of body modification terms provided.</td>
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<td>• Waste is considered to be clinical waste.</td>
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<td>• Nickel shall be less than 0.05%; gold should not be less than 14 karat.</td>
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<td>• Includes piercing inspection checklist.</td>
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<td><strong>Aesthetics</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Habia (government appointed standards setting body for aesthetics):</td>
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<td>• Drill bits should be scrubbed and disinfected; sanding boards and sleeves must be single use disposable.</td>
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<td>• Code of Practice, Nail Services 44</td>
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<td>• Training is required for operation of electric nail files (Level 3 National Vocational Qualification).</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Code of Practice, Waxing Services 45</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Paraffin and nail oils should not be used in a way that could be contaminated (i.e., with a brush that has touched the skin).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Hygiene in Beauty Therapy 46</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Nail polish brushes are considered self-disinfecting due to nature of product (i.e., does not support fungal, bacterial, or viral growth).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Nail Manufacturers Council and Habia Guidelines for Cleaning and Disinfecting Manicuring and Enhancement Equipment 47</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Risk from double-dipping spatula in wax considered small; but pot must be regularly emptied and cleaned. Double-dipping not allowed after application on areas already waxed; disposable single-use pots are recommended ideally.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Never use Ziploc or airtight bags to store customers’ used items as they may promote bacterial growth. Containers should be covered and labelled and items inside should be clean. Tools should be disinfected immediately prior to use. Containers stored separate from clean area.</td>
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<td>Disinfectants must be prepared fresh daily, even if in spray bottles.</td>
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<td>New disposable gloves should be used during waxing.</td>
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<td>No jewellery that could contact client, should be worn. Hair should be tied back.</td>
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<td>Client and practitioner must wash hands prior to service; client must cleanse intimate areas prior to waxing.</td>
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<td>Patch testing recommended prior to client’s first wax; required if client has history of allergy/sensitivity.</td>
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<td>Cleaning</td>
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<td>Scrub brush used to clean files, buffers, paddles.</td>
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<td>Ultrasonic cleaning for metal pushers, nippers.</td>
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<td>Acetone soak for metal electric file bits.</td>
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<td>Washing machine for linens.</td>
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<td>Towelettes for electrical equipment and table tops.</td>
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<td>Foam buffers should be pressed between towels to removed moisture. Buffer should be dry before storing; spray with 60-90% alcohol with 5 minutes contact time after cleaning.</td>
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<td>70-90% alcohol appropriate for porous or absorbent items.</td>
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<td>Cleaning brushes must be cleaned and disinfected between each use.</td>
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We would like to thank Kevin Flanagan and Dr Norman Noah for sharing resources; Gurleen Bhatia and Daniel Fong for research and assistance; Prabjit Barn, Jason MacDonald, Sandra Gill, and Mike Zemanek for their review of this document.
References


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