

# Operating and Safety Procedures For Downtown Tattoo

## 1. OPERATOR OR ARTIST

- a. Hand washing- Immediately prior to beginning any tattooing or body piercing procedure, each operator shall wash his/her hands in hot water with liquid or granulated soap, or its equivalent, as approved by the Health Department. After washing hands operator shall wear disposable latex gloves. The operator's fingernails shall be kept clean and short.
- b. Lap Cloth-All operators shall use different lap cloths for each patron, either disposable or laundered weekly.

## 2. TATTOOING PROCEDURE

- a. Razors-Safety razors with single service blades for each patron shall be used for preparation of the areas to be tattooed. They shall be discarded after each use. A straight edge razor shall be disinfected or sanitized after each use.
- b. Shaving-Before shaving, the area to be tattooed shall be thoroughly cleansed with tincture of green soap (USP), or its equivalent, as approved by the Health Department. After shaving the area to be tattooed, 70% alcohol shall be applied to the skin.
- c. Skin lubricant-Only sterile A&D ointment in collapsible metal or plastic tube, or its equivalent, as approved by the Health Department, shall be used on the area to be tattooed.
- d. Dyes or Inks-All dyes or inks used in tattooing shall be manufactured by a reputable manufacturer and used without adulteration of the original formula. Single service or individual containers of dye or ink shall be used for each patron and the container and remaining dye or ink discarded.
- e. The completed tattoo shall be washed with germicidal solution approved by the Health Department, or with 70% alcohol. The tattooed area shall be allowed to dry and petroleum jelly from a collapsible metal or plastic tube, or its equivalent as approved by the Health Department, shall be applied with a sterile gauze dressing to the site, the fastened with adhesive.
- f. Infections- The person owning or operating the tattooing establishment shall report all infection resulting from the practice of tattooing, which become known to the operator, the Health Department, and refer the patient to a physician.
- g. Care of skin-Oral and written instructions shall be given to each patron regarding the care of the skin, as a precaution against infections after tattooing.
- h. Tattooing, including the changing or repairing of previous tattoos, shall not be performed on the genitalia, scrotum, or in the anal area. Nor shall such tattooing be undertaken over the site of an obviously recent hypodermic injection.
- i. Dressings and Materials-The use of paper napkins and other materials for dressing are prohibited. Only recognizing and approved surgical dressings and tapes shall be used on patrons.

### 3. CARE OF INSTRUMENTS

- a. Preparation of Instruments for Sterilization- After each tattoo procedure, the tattoo tubes shall be placed in an ultrasonic type machine to remove the excess dye from the tubes and needle bars. When this process is completed, the tubes and needle bars shall be removed from the tattoo machines. They shall then be placed into a covered container if the method of sterilization is by autoclaving.
- b. Sterilizing of Instruments- Steam sterilizers, or alternate sterilizing procedures as approved by the Health Department, shall be provided for each establishment. All used, non-dispensable instruments – needle bars, grip and tubes – shall be sterilized before using on each customer by autoclaving under 15 pounds pressure for 15 minutes at 250° F.
- c. Storing of Instruments-If autoclaving is the method of sterilization, all tubes, grips and needle bars shall be left in the wrappers used during the autoclaving process. These wrapped articles shall be stored in a closed case or storage cabinet and shall be maintained in a sanitary manner at all times. The wrappers shall not be removed from the tubes, grips and needle bars until a tattoo procedure is begun.
- d. Monthly Biological Monitoring-Monthly, the sterilizing unit shall be tested to ensure that the devices thoroughly kill microorganisms. A log of all tests performed, including the date of each test and the entity performing the test shall be maintained.

### 4. TATTOOING ENVIRONMENT

- a. The procedure area is 72 square feet and maintained, free from dust, dirt or contamination.
- b. Illumination-The establishment shall be provided with artificial light sources equivalent to at least 20 foot candles at a distance 30 inches above the floor throughout the room(s); at least 40 foot candles provided at the level where the procedure is being performed.
- c. Walls, Floors, and Ceilings-The walls and ceilings shall be of an impervious smooth washable surface, and shall be maintained in a sanitary manner at all time, as shall the floors.
- d. Tables-All tables shall be constructed of easy cleanable material, with a smooth, washable finish and separated by a panel from any observer or waiting customer. Complete privacy should be available upon a patron's request.
- e. Toilet Facilities-A toilet and lavatory shall be conveniently located and accessible to the operator and customers.
- f. Lavatory-A lavatory, with hot and cold running water, soap and disposable towels shall be located in close proximity to each tattoo operator.
- g. There shall be no overhead or otherwise exposed sewage lines so as to create a potential hazard to the sanitary environment of the establishment.
- h. Debris-Sufficient receptacles shall be provided for the disposal of gloves, dressings, debris and trash.
- i. No live animals are permitted in the areas used for tattoo and body piercing procedures.
- j. Records-The name and address of each individual tattooed, the date of service and ink color(s) used shall be recorded and maintained for 7 years.
- k. Posting of License-The owner or operator shall keep the license conspicuously displayed at all times.