

Guidance on Cleanliness for Businesses undertaking Acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis

General

It is a legal requirement that any person or premises carrying out

- Acupuncture,
- Tattooing,
- Semi-Permanent Skin Colouring
- Cosmetic Piercing
- and Electrolysis

must be registered with Oldham Council. (See Guidance on Registration for more information on how to register).

The advice contained in this fact sheet provides 'best practice' guidance for those businesses who undertake such procedures. When a health and safety inspector visits your business premises, he or she will expect to see that the following criteria with regards to cleanliness have been met.

Please note that this is not statutory guidance. It does not replace any legislation or any statutory guidance.

Cleanliness of premises and fittings

We would expect the proprietor to ensure that:-

- any internal wall, door, window, partition, floor, floor covering or ceiling is kept clean and in such good repair as to enable it to be cleaned effectively;
- any waste material, or other litter arising from treatment is handled and disposed of in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance as advised by the local authority;
- any needle used in treatment is single-use and disposable, as far as is practicable, or otherwise is sterilized for each treatment, is suitably stored after treatment and is disposed of in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance as advised by the local authority;
- any furniture or fitting in the premises is kept clean and in such good repair as to enable it to be cleaned effectively;
- any table, couch or seat used by a client in the treatment area which may become contaminated with blood or other body fluids, and any surface on which a needle,

instrument or equipment is placed immediately prior to treatment has a smooth impervious surface which is disinfected—

immediately after use; and

at the end of each working day.

- any table, couch, or other item of furniture used in treatment is covered by a disposable paper sheet which is changed for each client;
- no eating, drinking, or smoking is permitted in the treatment area and a notice or notices reading “No Smoking”, and “No Eating or Drinking” is prominently displayed there.
- Furthermore, a proprietor should ensure that treatment is given in a treatment area used solely for giving treatment. (unless the only treatment to be given in such premises is ear-piercing or nose-piercing using a hygienic piercing instrument).
- The flooring of the treatment area must be a smooth impervious surface in any premises undertaking tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring and cosmetic piercing (unless the only treatment to be given in such area is ear-piercing or nose-piercing).

Cleansing and sterilization of needles, instruments, jewellery, materials and equipment

In order to secure cleansing and so far as is appropriate, the sterilization of needles, instruments, jewellery, materials and equipment, we would expect the proprietor to ensure that:-

- any gown, wrap or other protective clothing, paper or other covering, towel, cloth or other such article used in treatment—
 - is clean and in good repair and, so far as is appropriate, is sterile;
 - has not previously been used in connection with another client unless it consists of a material which can be and has been adequately cleansed and, so far as is appropriate, sterilized.
- any needle, metal instrument, or other instrument or equipment used in treatment or for handling such needle, instrument or equipment and any part of a hygienic piercing instrument that touches a client is sterile;
- any jewellery used for cosmetic piercing by means of a hygienic piercing instrument is sterile;
- any dye used for tattooing or semi-permanent skin-colouring is sterile and inert;
- any container used to hold dye for tattooing or semi-permanent skin-colouring is either disposed of at the end of each treatment or is cleaned and sterilized before re-use.

Furthermore, we would expect a proprietor to provide:-

- adequate facilities and equipment for—
 - cleansing; and
 - sterilization, unless only pre-sterilized items are used.

- sufficient and safe gas points and electrical socket outlets;
- an adequate and constant supply of clean hot and cold water on the premises;
- clean and suitable storage which enables contamination of the articles, needles, instruments and equipment to be avoided as far as possible.

Cleanliness of operators

In order to secure the cleanliness of operators we would expect the proprietor to ensure that:-

- an operator—
 - keeps his hands and nails clean and his nails short;
 - keeps any open lesion on an exposed part of the body effectively covered by an Impermeable dressing;
 - wears disposable examination gloves that have not previously been used with another client, unless giving acupuncture otherwise than in the circumstances described below (**)
 - wears a gown, wrap or protective clothing that is clean and washable, or alternatively a disposable covering that has not previously been used in connection with another client;
 - does not smoke or consume food or drink in the treatment area

And shall provide—

- -suitable and sufficient washing facilities appropriately located for the sole use of operators, including an adequate and constant supply of clean hot and cold water, soap or detergent; and
- -suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation for operators.
- ** Where an operator gives acupuncture a proprietor shall ensure that the operator wears disposable examination gloves that have not previously been used with another client if—
 - (a) the client is bleeding or has an open lesion on an exposed part of his body; or
 - (b) the client is known to be infected with a blood-borne virus; or
 - (c) the operator has an open lesion on his hand; or
 - (d) the operator is handling items that may be contaminated with blood or other body fluids.

For further information or advice please contact:-

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