

Skin Piercing Registration

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

Status of this Leaflet

This is not statutory guidance and does not form any part of the Enforcement Policy (which is available separately). The leaflet does not replace any health and safety legislation or any statutory guidance issued under it, so reference should always be made to that before submitting applications.

General

There are many hazards associated with skin piercing activities, including bacterial infection and the transmission of blood-borne viruses such as hepatitis B/C and HIV. Control of these potentially dangerous activities is therefore essential, and as such it is a legal requirement that any person carrying out such activities must be registered with Oldham Council.

Scope

Persons carrying out any of the following activities, and the premises where those activities are undertaken, require registration:-

- Acupuncture,
- Tattooing,
- Semi-Permanent Skin Colouring, (i.e. micropigmentation, semi-permanent make-up and temporary tattooing (not henna tattooing))
- Cosmetic Piercing (i.e. piercing of any part of the body, including the ear)
- and Electrolysis

Only when skin piercing is carried out by, or under the supervision of, a person who is registered as a medical practitioner (or, in the case of acupuncture only, a dentist) is there exemption from this registration scheme.

The Registration Process

In order to register your business or as a practitioner, you must firstly complete an application form. You can download a form from this website or you can contact Environmental Health on 0161 7702244 and a copy can be sent out via the post.

All applications will be considered within 28 days of receipt by the local authority of the completed application form and payment of the appropriate fee (see Fees Section). All applicants will be contacted within that time in order to discuss the application and to arrange for an inspection to be made by an Officer from the Health and Safety section. He/She will be checking for compliance with duties set under the Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974 and associated Regulations. A certificate of registration will be issued and this should then be displayed in a prominent position on the premises where the activities take place.

The Officer will be pleased to offer any advice or give any help if you are unsure as to how to meet your legal obligations.

Frequently asked questions

Are there age limits that apply with tattooing/cosmetic piercing etc?

Yes there are age limits for tattooing. It is illegal to tattoo a person under the age of 18. This is specified in the Tattooing of Minors Act 1969.

There is no statutory age of consent for cosmetic piercing. Cosmetic piercing of a minor is lawful provided a valid consent is given. Furthermore, the courts have held that a parent's right to decide on behalf of his or her child yields to the child's competence to make a decision (i.e. if he or she is capable of understanding the nature of the act to be done). Body piercing for sexual gratification is unlawful. Children under the age of 16 are not able to consent lawfully to a piercing that would be regarded as indecent assault. Genital or nipple piercing performed on someone under the age of 16 might be regarded as indecent assault under sexual offences legislation depending of the facts of the case.

If piercers are willing to treat minors, the presence of a parent or guardian is strongly recommended during any such procedure.

Is the injection of Botox and cosmetic filler implants covered by these regulations?

The injection of Botox and cosmetic filler implants are not covered by the scope of this registration process. Please note however that Botox etc are prescription only medicines and can only be administered by registered doctors and certain other persons. For more information on who can legally administer such products, please see [MHRA – Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency - Home page](#)

What about the use of lasers?

The use of lasers is not covered under this registration scheme, however certain health and safety requirements must be adhered to when using such equipment. For further information see our fact sheet.....[link to laser sheet](#)

For further information or advice please contact:-

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