

Australian Tattoo Events presents The Australian Tattoo Expo – Artist Waiver Form

READ ONLY – This is for your information only, you will sign this upon arrival at the Expo.

This form contains important information for tattoo artists and body piercing practitioners and must be read and signed by all exhibiting at The Australian Tattoo Expo – Sydney (International Convention Centre)

In order to prevent the spread of blood-borne infections during The Australian Tattoo Expo, we have listed below the infection control requirements to be followed by all artists as set down by the **City of Sydney**.

Health Inspectors from the **City of Sydney Council** will inspect all booths prior to the opening of the Expo on Friday morning. Council will also be making daily inspections at the expo and will be checking with each booth to ensure that all tattooists and skin penetration artists are complying with these regulations.

Body art involves a high risk of transmission of blood-borne viruses such as hepatitis B and C and HIV, and bacterial infections that can be transmitted by unclean and non-sterile equipment and unhygienic procedures and premises. The potential for serious infection occurs during body art procedures because needles used to penetrate the skin become contaminated by blood and body fluids which may not be visible. There is a risk of nerve damage and unwanted scarring if procedures are poorly performed.

Every client and artist is at risk if proper infection control procedures are not followed. The client's skin should be clean and free of infection, and all instruments used in skin penetration practices must be sterile at the time of use.

It is illegal in Australia to tattoo, brand, bead or mark any person under the age of 18 years. Piercing is the same unless it is piercing the ears which can be done from the age of 16 years.

Before commencing the tattoo or piercing please have each client read, complete and sign the official Client Waiver Consent form supplied by the organisers, please retain each form for inspection if required by the Health Inspectors. At the end of each day all completed Client Consent forms will be collected and retained.

1. You and your associates agree to release, forever discharge and agree to hold harmless The Australian Tattoo Expo and its directors, contractors and employees from any and all liability, claims, or demands for personal injury, sickness or death as well as property damages and expenses of any nature whatsoever which may be incurred. You agree to assume all risk of personal and client injury, sickness, death, damage and expense as a result of participating in this expo.
2. Only single-use disposable needles and grips/tubes shall be used and these should be stored away from contamination.
3. Cover surfaces that may need to be touched (e.g. Spray and ink bottles) with single-use plastic bags or plastic film so only the nozzles are exposed. Cover light fittings and power pack controls with plastic film.
4. Dispense the required dyes, pigment, lubricating jelly, antiseptic cream and any other lotion (including solutions used to clean the skin during the tattooing and piercing processes into single use containers using single-use spatulas.
5. Reusable containers should be cleaned, disinfected or sterilised before the next client.
6. Place water for rinsing between colours into a single-use cup. And use single-use wipes for each client.
7. Open all sterile items (including tubes/grips and needles attached to needle bars) in the presence of the client to show sterile instruments are being used, check chemical indicators for colour change and, if satisfactory, then assemble the hand piece.
8. Any leftover lubricating jelly, pigments, creams, water and wipes must be discarded after each client.
9. Replace any sterile instruments or needles accidentally touched by the operator or contaminated in any way
10. Take care when inspecting needles for defects such as damaged or blunt points. Needles must never be tested for sharpness on the skin of the operator or client; self-illuminating magnifying glasses should be available to check needles for bluntness or barbs.
11. Each artist must use the SHARPS container supplied by the organisers in their booth for the disposal of used needles, razors etc. and all contaminated waste, wipes, gloves etc. must be disposed of in the CONTAMINATED wastes bin.

12. If an autoclave is used to sterilise equipment then a record must be kept of the length and time the equipment was sterilised and the temperature and the pressure of the autoclave.
13. Ensure the client's skin is clean and free from infection, sores or wounds on or around the tattoo site.
14. If the tattoo or piercing area needs to be shaved, use only a single-use safety razor for each client and immediately discard it after use into the sharps container.
15. Use 70% isopropyl alcohol to disinfect the site where the procedure will be carried out.
16. Use preferred lotion or liquid soap on the skin before placement of single-use stencil.
17. Each artist must wash their hands in the separate hand basin using antimicrobial or plain liquid soap before and after attending each client, and if you have to leave the client during the procedure,
18. Hands must be dried using a disposable paper towel and a new pair of single-use gloves must be put on.
19. Artists who are ill or have skin infections or sores must not perform a skin penetration procedure. Cuts must be covered by an appropriate waterproof band aid.
20. When tattooing or piercing, do not eat, drink or smoke.
21. If the client takes a break during the tattooing process, then cover the skin being tattooed with a dry clean dressing.
22. When the tattoo or piercing is completed, clean the area with an anti-microbial solution, then remove gloves and wash and dry hands, then re-glove using new single-use gloves.
23. Apply antiseptic cream from a single-use container using a single-use spatula; cover the tattoo or piercing site with a sterile dressing or plastic film held firmly in place by surgical tape. Remove gloves and wash and dry hands again.
- 24.. Take time to explain and demonstrate to the client how to care for the tattoo or piercing to prevent infection, and provide the client with the same information in writing; ensure the client has fully understood these instructions.
25. When piercing only appropriate sterilized materials should be used such as niobium, titanium, solid 14 or 17 carat gold, implant high grade quality stainless steel, platinum and dense low porosity plastic such as mono filament nylon, acrylic or Lucite.

Record Keeping:

Keep accurate records of every tattooing and piercing procedure for each client. These records should include name, address, telephone number, email, the date, a description of the procedure, and sterilization information relevant to the instruments used. Accurate and detailed records are valuable to the body artist if there is any infection or possibility of a blood-borne virus transmission from a procedure. For example, in the case of a blood-borne virus, these records can be cross-checked for the probability for or against a reported infection as a result of a specific procedure.

This form must be signed before Opening Day of The Australian Tattoo Expo.