



U.S. Navy Tattooing and Body Piercing Health and Sanitation Guidance

NMCPHC-TM 6220

Version: July 2020

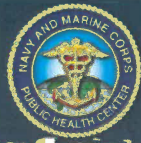


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This guide may be accessed via the NMCPHC website:
<https://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/program-and-policy-support/Pages/Living-Spaces-and-Related-Service-Facilities.aspx>

Reviewed and approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. J. Hawkins", written over a horizontal line.

CAPT R. J. Hawkins, NC, USN
Commander, Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center



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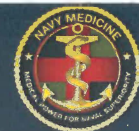


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Section I. General Information

1.1. Introduction

The Navy Exchange Command (NEXCOM) and the Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) system provide authorized customers with quality goods and services at a savings and support Navy and Marine Corps quality of life programs for active duty military, retirees, reservists, and their families. As part of their respective retail store business lines, NEXCOM and MCX are introducing tattooing and body piercing services to their lists of offerings. NEXCOM and MCX offer established, licensed, and reputable local tattoo and body piercing (body art) businesses (vendors) the opportunity to lease NEXCOM or MCX retail space and offer their services to authorized NEXCOM and MCX customers.

NEXCOM and MCX do not license or certify the body art vendors; they must already be licensed and in good standing by the local or state licensing authority before applying to operate in a NEXCOM or MCX retail space.

Body art is a new service offering at Navy Exchange (NEX) and MCX locations. Similar to barber and beauty services offered by NEXCOM and MCX, body art services have specific health and sanitation requirements that must be enforced to ensure the health and safety of staff and patrons. The Preventive Medicine (PM) Directorate at the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC), in collaboration with NEXCOM, developed health and sanitation requirements for tattooing and body piercing establishments operating on U.S. Navy and Marine Corps installations.

1.2. Scope

This guide was developed by the PM Directorate at the NMCPHC to provide information and guidance to Navy PM personnel responsible for conducting sanitation inspections and medical surveillance of body art establishments operating at NEX and MCX locations.

The provisions of this guide apply to all body art establishments as indicated and herein defined. The purpose of the health and sanitation provisions shall be to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the staff and patrons of body art establishments operating on U.S. Navy and Marine Corps installations.

1.3. Definitions

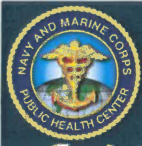
For the purpose of this guide, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them by this section.



- 1) **Aftercare** means written instructions given to the client, specific to the body art procedure(s) rendered, about caring for the body art and surrounding area. These instructions will include information about when to seek medical treatment if necessary.
- 2) **Antiseptic** means an agent that destroys disease-causing microorganisms on human skin or mucosa.
- 3) **Aseptic technique** means a hygienic practice that prevents and hinders the direct transfer of microorganisms, regardless of pathogenicity, from one person or place to another person or place.
- 4) **Body art** means the practice of physical body adornment by permitted establishments and operators using, but not limited to, the following techniques: body piercing, tattooing, and cosmetic tattooing. This definition does not include practices that are considered medical procedures by a state medical board, such as implants under the skin, which shall not be performed in a body art establishment. Nor does this definition include, for the purposes of this document, piercing of the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear with pre-sterilized, single-use stud-and-clasp ear piercing systems.
- 5) **Body art establishment** means any place or premises, whether public or private, where the practices of body art, whether or not for profit, are performed.
- 6) **Body piercing** means puncturing or penetrating the skin of a person with pre-sterilized single-use needles, and inserting pre-sterilized jewelry or other adornment thereto in the opening, except that puncturing the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear with a pre-sterilized single-use stud-and-clasp ear piercing system shall not be included in this definition.
- 7) **Contaminated waste** means any liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious materials; contaminated items that would release blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed; items that are caked with dried blood or other potentially infectious materials and are capable of releasing these materials during handling; sharps and any wastes containing blood and other potentially infectious materials, as defined in 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.10320, known as "Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens."
- 8) **Dermal** means a form of body piercing also known as a single-point piercing. A dermal piercing does not have an entry and exit point for jewelry. Instead, a small (6 or 7 millimeter) anchor is inserted into the middle layer (dermis) of the skin. The jewelry is then screwed into the top of the post of the anchor, and sits on the surface of the skin.
- 9) **Disinfection** means the destruction of disease-causing microorganisms on inanimate objects or surfaces, thereby rendering such objects safe for use or handling.



- 10) **Ear piercing** means the puncturing of the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear with a pre-sterilized single-use stud-and-clasp ear-piercing system following manufacturer's instructions. Under no circumstances shall ear piercing studs and clasps be used anywhere on the body other than the outer perimeter and lobe of the ear.
- 11) **Equipment** means all machinery, including fixtures, containers, vessels, tools, devices, implements, furniture, display and storage areas, sinks, and all other apparatus and appurtenances used in connection with the operation of a body art establishment.
- 12) **Hand sink** means a lavatory equipped with hot and cold running water under pressure, used solely for the purpose of washing hands, arms, or other portions of the body.
- 13) **Hot water** means water that attains and maintains a temperature of at least 100 degrees F.
- 14) **Instruments used for body art** means hand pieces, needles, needle bars, and other instruments that may come in contact with a client's body or may be exposed to bodily fluids during body art procedures.
- 15) **Invasive** means entry into the body either by incision or insertion of an instrument into or through the skin or mucosa, or by any other means intended to puncture, break, or compromise the skin or mucosa.
- 16) **Jewelry** means any personal ornament inserted into a newly pierced area, which must be made of surgical implant-grade stainless steel; solid 14k or 18k white or yellow gold, niobium, titanium, or platinum; or a dense, low porosity plastic, which is free of nicks, scratches or irregular surfaces and which has been properly sterilized prior to use.
- 17) **Liquid chemical germicide** means a disinfectant or sanitizer registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or an approximately 1:100 dilution of household chlorine bleach made fresh daily and dispensed from a spray bottle (500 ppm, ¼ cup per gallon or two tablespoons per quart of tap water).
- 18) **Operator/technician** means any person who controls, operates, manages, conducts, or practices body art activities at a body art establishment and who is responsible for compliance with these regulations, whether actually performing body art activities or not. This term includes technicians who work under the operator and perform body art activities.
- 19) **Operator area** means any area where body art is performed within a permitted establishment.
- 20) **Permanent Cosmetic Tattooing** means placing marks upon or under the skin of any person with ink or any other substance, resulting in the permanent coloration of the skin on the



face, including but not limited to eyebrows, eyeliners, lip coloring, lip liners, full lips, cheek blush, eye shadow, and on the body for breast and scar repigmentation or camouflage, also known as permanent make-up or micropigmentation.

- 21) **Person** means an individual, any form of business or social organization, or any other non-governmental legal entity, including but not limited to corporations, partnerships, limited-liability companies, associations, trusts, or unincorporated organizations.
- 22) **Person-in-charge (PIC)** means any person having immediate control of a body art establishment and of the persons working or employed therein.
- 23) **Physician** means a person licensed by a state to practice medicine in all its branches and may include other areas such as dentistry, osteopathy, or acupuncture depending on the rules and regulations particular to that state.
- 24) **Premises** means a body art establishment, any restroom, waiting room, hall, lounge, storage room, or accessory buildings, appurtenant to such body art establishment and the area or land surrounding the body art establishment forming an enclosure in which such body art establishment is located or where body art is practiced, and which is under the control of the owner or manager, or used by him directly or indirectly in connection with the body art establishment.
- 25) **Procedure surface** means any surface of an inanimate object that contacts the client's unclothed body during a body art procedure; skin preparation of the area adjacent to and including the body art procedure; or any associated work area which may require sanitizing.
- 26) **Preventive Medicine Department** means the agency or its authorized representatives, on the installation that a given MCX/NEX body art facility is located on, having jurisdiction to promulgate, monitor, administer, and enforce these regulations. For example, the Preventive Medicine Department at the Navy Hospital serving a base where a MCX/NEX body art facility operates.
- 27) **Sanitation procedure** means a process of reducing the numbers of microorganisms on cleaned surfaces and equipment to a safe level as judged by public health standards, and which has been approved by the health department.
- 28) **Sharps** means any objects (sterile or contaminated) that may purposefully or accidentally cut or penetrate the skin or mucosa, including but not limited to, pre-sterilized, single-use needles; scalpel blades, and razor blades.



- 29) **Sharps container** means puncture-resistant, leak-proof container that can be closed for handling, storage, transportation, and disposal and that is labeled with the international biohazard symbol.
- 30) **Single use** means products or items that are intended for one time, one person use and are disposed of after use on each client, including, but not limited to, cotton swabs or balls, tissues or paper products, paper or plastic cups, gauze and sanitary coverings, razors, piercing needles, scalpel blades, stencils, ink cups, and protective gloves.
- 31) **Sterilization** means a very powerful process resulting in the destruction of all forms of microbial life, including highly resistant bacterial spores.
- 32) **Sterilization area** means a separate room or area separate from workstations with restricted client access in which tattooing instruments are cleaned, disinfected, and sterilized.
- 33) **Tattooing** means any method of placing ink or other pigment into or under the skin or mucosa by the aid of needles or any other instrument used to puncture the skin, resulting in permanent coloration of the skin or mucosa. This term includes all forms of cosmetic tattooing.
- 34) **Universal precautions** means a set of guidelines and controls, published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as "Guidelines for Prevention of Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Hepatitis B Virus to Healthcare and Public Safety Workers" in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), June 23, 1989, Vol. 38, No. S-6, and as "Recommendations for Preventing Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Hepatitis B Virus to Patients During Exposure-Prone Invasive Procedures", in MMWR, July 12, 1991, Vol. 40, No. RR-8. This method of infection control requires the employer and the employee to assume that all human blood and specified human body fluids are infectious for HIV, HBV, and other bloodborne pathogens. Precautions included handwashing; gloving; personal protection equipment; injury prevention and other proper handling and disposal of needles, other sharp instruments, and blood and body fluid contaminated products.



Section II. Standards of Practice

The sections that follow list and describe the various health, safety, sanitation, licensing/permit, record-keeping, and other provisions applicable to body art establishments operating within NEXCOM and MCX spaces worldwide.

Health and sanitation regulations pertaining to tattooing and body piercing vary greatly from one city or state to another. This set of requirements was adapted from the established tattooing and body piercing health and sanitation regulations from selected states and/or local codes.

Body art vendors and operators are required to be in compliance with their local or state health department's regulations and permit requirements in order to be eligible to operate at a NEXCOM or MCX location. Therefore, all Preventive Medicine personnel responsible for providing health and sanitation surveillance to a NEXCOM or MCX body art establishment must be knowledgeable of the provisions contained in this document, as well as those established in the applicable local or state codes.

2.1. Requirements for Premises. This section describes the health and sanitation provisions pertaining to the physical facility that each body art establishment must adhere to.

- 1) A body art establishment shall maintain and follow a written Infection Prevention and Control Plan, provided by the person-in-charge of the establishment, specifying the procedures to be followed to achieve compliance.
- 2) Body art establishments shall submit properly prepared plans and specifications for the construction of the establishment a minimum of 60 days prior to opening to the Preventive Medicine department as a part of the application process.
- 3) All floors, walls, ceilings, and procedure surfaces of a body art establishment shall be smooth, free of open holes or cracks, light colored, washable, and in good repair. Floors, walls, and ceilings shall be maintained in a clean condition. All procedure surfaces, including client chairs or benches, shall be of such construction as to be easily cleaned and sanitized after each client. All body art establishments shall be completely separated by solid partitions or by walls extending from floor to ceiling, from any room used for human habitation, any food establishment or room where food is prepared, any hair salon, any retail sales, or any other such activity that may cause potential contamination of work surfaces.

- 4) No portion of any body art establishment shall be used for sleeping purposes, nor shall living quarters of any kind be directly entered through the body art establishment.
- 5) Effective measures shall be taken by the body art vendor to protect against entrance into the establishment and against the breeding or presence on the premises of insects, vermin, and rodents. Insects, vermin, and rodents shall not be present in any part of the establishment, its appurtenances, or appertaining premises.
- 6) There shall be a minimum of 45 square feet of floor space for each operator in the establishment. Each establishment shall have an area that may be screened from public view for clients requesting privacy. Multiple body art stations shall be separated by dividers, curtains, or partitions at minimum.
- 7) All facilities shall have a blood spill clean-up kit in the work area. Blood spill cleanup kits are readily available from medical supply vendors. Contents of the kit should include: latex gloves, super-absorbent disposable towel, pre-moistened germicidal decontamination cloth, one or more packets of chlorinated granular fluid absorber, a plastic scoop, pre-moistened antimicrobial disinfectant hand wipes, and a large red biohazard waste disposal bag.
- 8) Animals are not permitted in the establishment except for guide or service animals accompanying persons with disabilities, or non-mammalian animals in enclosed glass containers such as fish aquariums, which shall be outside of the tattooing or sterilization areas. No animals are allowed in the tattooing or sterilization areas.
- 9) Adequate mechanical ventilation shall be provided in the establishment. The atmosphere in each body art establishment shall be maintained reasonably free of odors, noxious substances, or any objectionable air contaminant.
- 10) A body art establishment shall be equipped with hand-cleaning facilities for its personnel within line-of-sight of the operator area such that the body art practitioner can return to the area without having to touch anything with his/her hands. Hand-cleaning facilities shall be equipped either with hot and cold or tempered running water under pressure and liquid germicidal soap or with a sanitizing solution to clean hands. Hand-cleaning facilities shall be equipped with single-use towels or mechanical hand drying devices and a covered refuse container. Such facilities shall be kept clean and in good repair. All facilities must have running water and soap accessible for cleaning of hands contaminated by body fluids.



- 11) The use of tobacco products and consumption of alcoholic beverages shall be prohibited in the operator area or sterilization areas.
- 12) No food or drink will be stored or consumed in the operator area or sterilization areas except for the client's use in order to sustain optimal physical conditions; such food and drink must be individually packaged.
- 13) Floors and walls of toilet rooms shall be constructed of non-absorbent materials. All toilet room doors must be self-closing. Toilet rooms shall be kept in a clean and sanitary manner.
- 14) At least one covered waste receptacle shall be provided in each operator area and each toilet room. Receptacles in the operator area shall be emptied daily and solid waste shall be removed from the premises at least weekly. All refuse containers shall be lidded, cleanable, and kept clean.
- 15) All rooms used for the purpose of body art shall be provided with artificial illumination uniformly distributed so as to give 50 foot candles or more at the working surfaces of each operator area. Such illumination shall be reasonably free from glare.
- 16) Work surfaces shall be cleaned with an EPA registered, hospital grade disinfectant. Surfaces that come in contact with blood or other body fluids shall be immediately disinfected with an EPA registered germicide solution. Appropriate personal protective equipment shall be worn during cleaning and disinfecting procedures.
- 17) Cabinets for storage of instruments, dyes, pigments, single-use articles, carbon stencils, and other utensils shall be provided for each operator and shall be maintained in a sanitary manner.
- 18) All steam sterilizers shall be biological spore tested at least monthly.
- 19) Biological spore test records shall be retained for a period of three years and made available upon request.
- 20) Steam sterilizers shall be used only for instruments used by the parlor's employees.
- 21) Prior to expansion or modification of any permitted body art establishment, the vendor shall notify the Preventive Medicine authority and building officials of such expansion or modification, and supply sufficient information for the Preventive Medicine authority to determine if the expanded or modified plans comply with NEXCOM, MCX and local or state requirements. Upon the Preventive Medicine authority's finding that the expansion or modification meets with applicable requirements, a letter of approval shall be issued.



2.2. Operator or Technician Requirements. This section describes licensing/certification, health and safety provisions pertaining to individual body art practitioners.

- 1) Each body art operator or technician shall have and maintain all licenses and permits required by local or state regulations and be in good standing in every jurisdiction where licensed, certified, or registered.
 - a) The body art operator's license is reviewed during routine Preventive Medicine inspections.
 - b) The contracting organization (NEXCOM or MCX) is responsible for determining licensure or operator qualifications before an individual begins providing body art services on the installation. Qualifications are based on formal criteria established by the state or local health department, or other regulatory office.
- 2) The following information shall be kept on file on the premises of a body art establishment and available for inspection by the Preventive Medicine Authority:
 - a) Employee information:
 - i) Full names and exact duties
 - ii) Date of birth
 - iii) Gender
 - iv) Home address (must be physical address, no P.O. Box)
 - v) Home/work phone numbers
 - b) All operators shall provide the person-in-charge one of the following:
 - i) Proof of completion of the full series of Hepatitis B vaccine;
 - ii) Proof of immunity by blood titer; or
 - iii) Written declaration of refusal of the owner's offer of full series of Hepatitis B vaccine.
- 3) The body art operator must be a minimum of 18 years of age.
- 4) All body art operators shall wear clean outer garments, maintain a high degree of personal cleanliness, and conform to hygienic practices while on duty.



- 5) Smoking (to include the use of e-cigarettes), eating, or drinking is prohibited in the area where body art is performed.
- 6) Operators shall refuse service to any person who, in the opinion of the operator, is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- 7) Operators must wear single-use examination gloves while assembling body art instruments.
- 8) In performing body art procedures, the operator shall wear disposable vinyl or latex gloves. Gloves must be changed if they become contaminated by contact with any non-clean surfaces or objects or by contact with a third person. The gloves shall be discarded, at a minimum, after the completion of each procedure on an individual client, and hands shall be washed before the next set of gloves is donned. Under no circumstances shall a single pair of gloves be used on more than one person. The use of disposable gloves does not preclude or substitute for handwashing procedures as part of a good personnel hygiene program.
- 9) If, while performing a body art procedure, the operator's glove is pierced, torn, or otherwise contaminated, the contaminated gloves shall be immediately discarded, and the hands washed thoroughly before a fresh pair of gloves is donned. Any item or instrument used for body art that is contaminated during the process shall be discarded and replaced immediately with a new disposable item or a new sterilized instrument or item before the procedure resumes.
- 10) No person shall perform any body art procedure upon a person under the age of 18 years.
- 11) Any skin or mucosa surface to receive a body art procedure shall be free of rash or any visible infection.
- 12) Body art operators shall use standard precautions while performing body art procedures. An operator diagnosed with a communicable disease shall provide to the Preventive Medicine Department a written statement from a health care practitioner that the operator's condition no longer poses a threat to public health.
- 13) Body art operators with draining lesions on their hands or face will not be permitted to work until cleared by a health care professional.
- 14) The area of the client's skin to receive a body art procedure shall be cleaned with an approved germicidal soap according to label instructions.



- 15) Tattooing inks and dyes shall be placed in a single-use disposable container for each client. Following the procedure, the unused contents and the container will be properly disposed of.
- 16) If shaving is required, razors shall be single-use and disposed of in a puncture resistant container.
- 17) Each body art operator performing any tattooing or body piercing procedures in the establishment shall have the education and experience, or any combination thereof, to practice aseptic technique and prevent the transmission of bloodborne pathogens. All procedures shall be performed using aseptic technique.
- 18) A set of individual sterilized needles shall be used for each client. Single-use disposable instruments shall be disposed of in a puncture resistant container.
- 19) Used non-disposable instruments shall be kept in a separate puncture resistant container until brush scrubbed in hot soapy water and then sterilized by autoclave. Contaminated instruments shall be handled with disposable gloves.
- 20) Used instruments that are ultrasonically cleaned shall be rinsed under running hot water prior to being placed in the used instrument container.
- 21) Used instruments that are not ultrasonically cleaned prior to being placed in the used instrument container shall be kept in a germicidal or soap solution until brush scrubbed in hot water and soap and sterilized by autoclave.
- 22) The ultrasonic unit shall be sanitized daily with a germicidal solution.
- 23) Non-disposable instruments shall be sterilized and shall be handled and stored in a manner to prevent contamination. Instruments to be sterilized shall be sealed in bags made specifically for the purpose of autoclave sterilization and shall include the date of sterilization. If non-transparent bags are utilized, the bag shall also list the contents.
- 24) Autoclave sterilization bags with a color code indicator that changes color upon proper sterilization shall be utilized during the autoclave sterilization process.
- 25) Instruments shall be placed in the autoclave in a manner to allow live steam to circulate around them.
- 26) Contaminated single-use and disposable items shall be disposed of in accordance with federal and state regulations regarding disposal of biological hazardous materials.
- 27) The manufacturer's written instructions of the autoclave shall be followed.



2.3. Prohibited Acts. Per NEXCOM and MCX requirements, the following are prohibited acts.

- 1) It is prohibited to perform body art on any body part of a person under the age of 18 years.
- 2) It is prohibited to perform branding or scarification of any kind.
- 3) It is prohibited to perform tongue splitting.

2.4. Public Notification Requirements. This section describes required notifications that must be provided to patrons prior to and after any body art procedure, as well as health information that the operator must collect from the patron to protect the health of both the patron and the operator.

- 1) No person shall perform any body art on any client without first providing the client with the following disclosures in writing:
 - a) Body art is an invasive procedure in which the skin is penetrated by a foreign object.
 - b) If proper sterilization and antiseptic procedures are not followed by body art operators, there is a risk of transmission of bloodborne pathogens and other infections, including, but not limited to, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, and Hepatitis B or C viruses.
 - c) Tattooing may cause allergic reactions in persons sensitive to certain dyes or pigments.
 - d) Body art may involve discomfort or pain for which appropriate anesthesia cannot be legally made available by the person performing the body art procedure unless such person holds the appropriate licenses from a state health regulatory board.
- 2) So that the operator can properly evaluate the client's medical condition for receiving a body art procedure and not violate the client's rights to confidential medical information, the operator or technician shall ask for the information as follows: "So that your body may heal properly, we ask that you disclose any medical information that may affect the body art procedure being performed or interfere with the healing process."
- 3) Prior to the performance of body art it is recommended that the client receives, completes and signs a questionnaire that includes all of the following information:



- a) Whether the client may be pregnant.
 - b) Whether the client has a history of herpes infection at the proposed procedure site, diabetes, allergic reactions to latex or antibiotics, hemophilia or other bleeding disorder, or cardiac valve disease.
 - c) Whether the client has a history of medication use or is currently using medication, including being prescribed antibiotics prior to dental or surgical procedures.
 - d) Other risk factors for bloodborne pathogen exposure.
- 4) Verbal and written instructions for the aftercare of the body art procedure shall be provided to each client by the operator upon completion of the procedure.
- a) The written instructions shall advise the client to consult a physician at the first sign of infection or swelling and shall contain the name, address and phone number of the body art establishment.
 - b) Restrictions on physical activities such as bathing, recreational water activities, gardening, or contact with animals, and the duration of the restrictions.
 - c) These documents shall be signed and dated by both parties, with a copy given to the client and the operator retaining the original with all other required records.
 - d) All infections, complications or diseases resulting from any body art procedures that become known to the operator shall be reported to the Preventive Medicine department.

2.5. Client Records. This section describes proper record-keeping provisions for body art vendors as well as requirements for safeguarding personal medical information of patrons.

- 1) All information gathered from the client that is personal medical information and that is subject to the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) or similar state laws shall be maintained or disposed of in compliance with those provisions.
- 2) Each vendor shall keep records of all body art procedures administered, including date, time, identification, location of the body art procedure(s) performed, and operator's name. All client records shall be confidential and be retained for a minimum of three years and made available to the health department upon request.



- 3) The vendor shall keep a record of all persons who have had body art procedures performed. The record shall include the name, date of birth, and address of the client, the date of the procedure, the name of operator who performed the procedure(s), type and location of procedure performed, batch number of the sterilized equipment used, and signature of client. Such records shall be retained for a minimum of three years and shall be available to the health department upon request. The health department and the body art vendor shall keep such records confidential.
- 4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the vendor or operator to perform a body art procedure upon a client.

2.6. Preparation and Care of the Body Art Area

- 1) Before a body art procedure is performed, the immediate skin area and the areas of skin surrounding where the body art procedure is to be placed shall be washed with soap and water or with an approved surgical skin preparation, depending on the type of body art to be performed. If shaving is necessary, single-use disposable razors or safety razors with single-use blades shall be used. Blades shall be discarded after each use and reusable holders shall be autoclaved after use. Following shaving, the skin and surrounding area shall be washed with soap and water. The washing pad shall be discarded after a single-use.
- 2) In the event of blood flow, all products used to check the flow of blood or to absorb shall be single use and disposed of immediately after use in appropriate covered containers, unless the disposal products meet the definition of biomedical waste.

2.7. Sanitation and Sterilization Procedures

- 1) All non-single-use, non-disposable instruments used for body art shall be cleaned thoroughly after each use by scrubbing with an appropriate soap or disinfectant solution and hot water, or by following the manufacturer's instructions, to remove blood and tissue residue. When cleaning instruments used for body art procedures, the operator must wear disposable gloves and use medically recognized techniques to ensure that the instruments and gloves are not contaminated.
- 2) After being cleaned, all non-disposable instruments used for body art shall be packed individually in peel-pack and subsequently sterilized. All peel-packs shall contain either a sterilizer indicator or internal temperature indicator. Peel-packs must be dated with an expiration date not to exceed six months.
- 3) All cleaned, non-disposable instruments used for body art shall be sterilized in a steam autoclave. The sterilizer shall be used, cleaned, and maintained according to



manufacturer's instructions. A copy of the manufacturer's recommended procedures for the operation of the sterilization unit must be available for inspection by the health department. Sterile equipment may not be used if the package has been breached or after the expiration date without first repackaging and re-sterilizing. Sterilizers shall be located away from work stations or areas frequented by the public. If the body art establishment uses only single-use, disposable instruments and products, and uses sterile supplies, an autoclave shall not be required.

- 4) The body art establishment shall demonstrate that the sterilizer used is capable of attaining sterilization by monthly spore destruction tests. These tests shall be verified through an independent laboratory. The permit shall not be issued or renewed until documentation of the sterilizer's ability to destroy spores is received by the health department. These tests records shall be retained by the vendor for a period of three years and made available to the health department upon request.
- 5) All reusable needles in tattooing and cosmetic tattooing shall be cleaned and sterilized prior to use and stored in peel-packs. After sterilization, the instruments used for tattooing/body piercing shall be stored in a dry, clean cabinet, or other tightly covered container reserved for the storage of such instruments.
- 6) All instruments used for tattooing or body piercing shall remain stored in sterile packages until just prior to the performance of a body art procedure. When assembling instruments used for body art procedures, the operator shall wear disposable gloves and use medically recognized techniques to ensure that the instruments and gloves are not contaminated.
- 7) All inks, dyes, pigments, needles, and equipment shall be specifically manufactured for performing body art procedures and shall be used according to manufacturer's instructions. The mixing of approved inks, dyes, or pigments, or their dilution with potable water is acceptable. Immediately before a tattoo is applied, the quantity of the dye shall be transferred from the dye bottle and placed into single-use paper or plastic cups. Upon completion of the tattoo, these single cups or caps and their contents shall be discarded.

2.8. Requirements for Single-use Items

- 1) Single-use items shall not be used on more than one client for any reason. After use, all single-use needles, razors, and other sharps shall be immediately disposed of in approved sharps container.



- 2) All products applied to the skin, including body art stencils, shall be single-use and disposable. Petroleum jellies, soaps, and other products used in the application of stencils shall be dispensed and applied on the area to be tattooed in a manner to prevent contamination of the original container and its contents.

2.9. Right of Entry for Purposes of Inspection

- 1) For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this document, the Preventive Medicine department and its employees and agents are hereby authorized to enter upon and into any body art establishment on a U.S. Navy or Marine Corps installation during all reasonable hours to inspect the same, without advance notice to the establishment. No person shall hinder, interfere with, or prevent any inspection authorized by this document.
- 2) Routine health and sanitation inspections of body art establishments on U.S. Navy and Marine Corps installations shall be conducted by the PM Department at least once per quarter.
- 3) The person-in-charge or operator of the body art establishment will be provided with a written copy of inspection results within five working days of the inspection. A copy of the inspection report will also be provided to the local NEXCOM or MCX office.
- 4) If there are critical violations (i.e. pose a threat to health or life of patrons or staff), the inspector shall immediately notify the person-in-charge or operator of the nature of the discrepancy and recommended corrective action. If the inspector considers the critical violation serious enough to warrant closure of the body art establishment until it is corrected, the senior NEXCOM or MCX official with closure authority and the installation Commanding Officer shall be notified immediately. NEXCOM or MCX headquarters and NMCPHC shall be notified of critical discrepancies within 24 hours of the inspection.

2.10. Suspension or Revocation of Contract

Operation of the body art establishment under the provisions of these requirements may be suspended temporarily or revoked by the NEXCOM or MCX upon recommendation by the Preventive Medicine Authority for failure to comply with the provisions of established health and sanitation regulations.