

## Notification of the Ministry of Public Health

On Criteria, Measures to Control Tattoo or Body Part Piercing Businesses

B.E. 2562 (A.D. 2019)

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Whereas it is deemed expedient to formulate criteria, measures to control tattoo or body part piercing businesses so as to govern business operations that cause or may cause hazards to health, e.g. infection, color or chemical allergy, and waste generated by the business operations, e.g. tattoo needles, materials contaminated with secretion, which may cause hazards to health and be prone to risk of biocontamination provided that they are not hygienically managed, and also to upgrade the business standards.

By virtue of the provisions of Section 4 of the Ministerial Regulation on Businesses Hazardous to Health, B.E. 2560 (A.D. 2017), the Minister of Public Health by advice of the Public Health Committee hereby issues this Notification as follows:

Clause 1. This Notification shall be referred to as “Notification of the Ministry of Public Health on Criteria, Measures to Control Tattoo or Body Part Piercing Businesses, B.E. 2562 (A.D. 2019)”.

Clause 2. This Notification shall come into force after the expiration of ninety days from the date of its promulgation in the Government Gazette.

Clause 3. In this Notification,

“Operational site” means a building location used for operating a tattoo or body part piercing business. In this regard, it shall not include an infirmary according to the Infirmary Act;

“Tattoo” means inserting pigments into the dermis layer of the skin by using a needle or an ancillary device for tattooing to create patterns;

“Body part piercing” means usage of a device to puncture a certain part of the body in order to create an opening in which jewelry is inserted; for example, ear cartilage piercing, lip piercing;

“Business operator” means the owner or the person responsible for operating such operational site;

“Worker” means the person performs tattooing, or body part piercing.

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Clause 4. Criteria, measures to control tattooing or body part piercing in order to prevent it from causing impact to an extent that it contributes or may contribute to hazards to health shall be as follows:

(1) Criteria, control measures concerning hygiene of operational sites are as follows:

(a) The building and its components, such as floors, walls, ceiling, and utility space, are durable, well built, clean, safe, in a good condition, able to prevent contamination from surroundings or business operations that may cause them fall into disrepair, easy to be cleaned, and maintained on a regular basis;

(b) The area to perform tattooing or body part piercing shall be clean and separately located in order to prevent contamination. The average area space must not be less than 4 square metres per 1 point of service and the space between each point of service must be suitably provided;

(c) Offer a hygienic wash basin together with soap that is ready to be used;

(d) Offer proper ventilation within the building.

(2) Criteria, control measures concerning safety of appliances, tools, equipment, pigments, and jewelry prior to the work are as follows:

(a) The table, chair, or bed offered for the tattoo service or body part piercing shall be clean, well built, safe, made of materials with flat surface, easy to be cleaned, and must be cleaned every single time before and after the service;

(b) The tattoo machine, wire connecting to the tattoo machine, and the piercing machine must be clean, safe, properly stored whereby the storing nature must not cause dirtiness or contamination. They must be maintained and ensured to be in good conditions at all times. In this regard, the machine must be cleaned with sanitisers, e.g. Ethyl alcohol 70%, Glutaraldehyde 2.4%, both before and after use, or disinfected by other suitable methods according to academic principles;

(c) Tattoo needles, piercing needles, razors must be sharp, strong, nonrusty, made from a material that is not hazardous or does not cause allergic symptoms. The needles must be clean and must undergo a sterile packaging process with manufacturing number, or date of manufacturing, and expiry date labeled on the package. They must be stored properly whereby the storing nature must not cause dirtiness or contamination, and all needles shall be used only once;

(d) Cotton wools, gauzes, pliers, forceps, and tray to contain needles or pliers or forceps must be clean, sterile. The pliers or forceps, and tray must be cleaned with sanitisers, e.g. Ethyl alcohol 70%, Glutaraldehyde 2.4%, both before and after use, or disinfected by other

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suitable methods according to academic principles. They must be stored properly whereby the storing nature must not cause dirtiness or contamination;

(e) Pigments used for tattooing must be labelled as Non-Hazardous Color for Tattoo with a document indicating manufacturer, distributor, date of manufacturing, and expiry date of the pigments provided, and stored properly;

(f) A jewelry to be worn must not be made from a material that contains detrimental components or that causes allergic symptoms and must not be a used material. In this regard, all jewelries must be cleaned with sanitisers, e.g. Ethyl alcohol 70%, Glutaraldehyde 2.4%, before use, or disinfected by other suitable methods according to academic principles;

(g) Provide a ready-to-use first aid medical kit and medicine within the operational site.

(3) Criteria, measures in work operations and monitoring of safety at work are as follows:

(a) At the area where tattooing or body part piercing is performed, illuminance must not be less than 800 lux;

(b) The area where tattooing or body part piercing is performed must be maintained clean and no irrelevant items shall be brought into the area;

(c) Pigment preparation process must be clean. It is not allowed to use expired pigments. The pigment container that has already been opened must be tightly shut. Pigments remained from a tattoo service as well as a container containing remained pigment, e.g. a plastic cup, color plate, shall be immediately disposed. Reusing is not allowed;

(d) In cleaning the skin, it prescribes that alcohol with concentration not less than 70% shall be used;

(e) The worker shall wear a facemask, gloves, coat, or apron at all times while providing the tattoo service or body part piercing;

(f) It is required that the worker shall wear gloves every time he/she provides tattooing or body part piercing service, and such gloves shall be changed every time at each change of customer. In this regard, in the case where the gloves are torn apart during the operation, or other incidents that are risky for exposure to contamination happen, it is required that the worker shall change gloves and clean his/her hands before wearing a new pair of gloves;

(g) Clean the entire body and wear clean clothes at all times, as well as cleaning their hands before and after providing services;

(h) Pets are not allowed within the area of tattooing or body part piercing.

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(4) Criteria, control measures concerning waste management are as follows:

(a) Prescribing that waste, at least general waste, sharps waste, and waste contaminated with bloods or secretion, shall be sorted within the operational site;

(b) Provide receptacles that are proper and sufficient for the quantity and type of waste. Regularly clean the receptacles and the storing area, as well as collecting and disposing waste in a hygienic manner;

(c) Tattoo needles, razors, and sharps shall be used only once. Prior to disposal, any of the followings must be carried out:

1) Disinfect them with sanitisers, e.g. Ethyl alcohol 70%, Glutaraldehyde 2.4%, or other suitable methods according to academic principles and dispose them in a box or a receptacle that cannot be punctured. Such receptacle must come with a lid and a label indicating "Sharps Waste," and the waste shall be collected and hauled for disposal. In this regard, criteria, procedures shall be in accordance with the Ministerial Regulation on General Waste Disposal Hygiene, or;

2) Dispose them in a box or a receptacle that cannot be punctured and comes with a lid; collect and haul them for disposal. In this regard, criteria, procedures shall be in accordance with the Ministerial Regulation on Infectious Waste and other relevant laws.

(d) Objects contaminated with bloods or secretion, such as marking material, cotton wools, gauzes, gloves, color container, and color remained from the tattooing must be handled according to one of the followings prior to disposal:

1) Disinfect them with sanitisers, e.g. Ethyl alcohol 70%, Glutaraldehyde 2.4%, or other suitable methods according to academic principles; collect and haul them for disposal. In this regard, criteria, procedures shall be in accordance with the Ministerial Regulation on General Waste Disposal Hygiene and other relevant laws, or;

2) Dispose them in a watertight container, and collect, and haul them for disposal. In this regard, criteria, procedures shall be in accordance with the Ministerial Regulation on Infectious Waste Disposal and other relevant laws.

(5) Criteria, control measures concerning hygiene and procedures in business operations are as follows:

(a) The business operator shall carry out the followings:

1) Provide a work manual and documents indicating work safety procedures, especially for the case of needle-prick and sharp injuries, or exposure to bloods or secretion. In this regard, the business operator shall inform the workers of potential accidents

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that can be caused by the work, and distribute a work manual and inform the workers accordingly;

2) Possess knowledge, supervise, and monitor to ensure that prevention of infection and management of waste generated from the business operations based on this Notification have been performed;

3) Notify service receivers who have underlining diseases, such as heart disease, hypertension, Hemophilia, Epilepsy, diabetes, immunodeficiency, and those who are minors that they should not receive tattoo services;

4) Provide suggestions for service receivers concerning practices to prevent infection after tattooing or body part piercing. For example, provide cleaning how-to for the tattooed or pierced regions, provide cautions of not getting into contact with water, not swimming, or getting into the sea, and provide a note that if the tattooed or pierced regions seem to get infected, do visit the doctor immediately, by posting a clearly visible board within the operational site, or provide an aftercare leaflet for the service receivers;

5) The business operator must control, supervise, monitor the operational site in order to ensure that it complies with this Notification.

(b) Workers shall perform as follows:

1) Be healthy while providing services. Not suffer from respiratory track diseases and repulsive skin diseases;

2) Have a medical certificate for annual health check and communicable disease surveillance, including Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and Tuberculosis;

3) Possess knowledge and practices concerning prevention of infection and management of waste caused by the business operation in order to be in line with this Notification.

Clause 5. This Notification shall not be applied to tattoo or body part piercing that is for the ritual or religious purposes.

Clause 6. The local government should educate business operators and workers concerning prevention of infection or danger caused by tattoo or body part piercing, including management of waste generated by the business operations.

Announced on the 14<sup>th</sup> Day of November 2019

Satit Pitutecha

Deputy Minister of Public Health

For Public Health Minister