

Tattoo shows, expos and other one-off events

Guidance for business

Introduction

One-off events providing higher risk personal appearance services (HRPAS), such as tattoo shows and expos, have been held regularly in Queensland for many years. All HRPAS have legislative requirements under the *Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003* (the Act) and *Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Regulation 2016* (the Regulation).

Local governments are responsible for monitoring and enforcing compliance with the Act.

The information in this fact sheet is to assist businesses in complying with the requirements of the Act when operating a tattoo show, expo, or similar one-off event at which HRPAS will be provided. This fact sheet should be read in conjunction with the Infection Control Guidelines and the [personal appearance services guide for business](#).

Licence

A HRPAS licence issued by local government is required to operate a tattoo show, expo or other similar one-off event. The person in charge of the event is required to hold the HRPAS licence. A licence issued for a one-off event has the same legislative requirements as a licence issued for a permanent operation, and all conditions of the licence must be complied with.

Event operators should also be aware that the *Tattoo Industry Act 2013* requires a person to possess a permit to hold events or exhibitions that involve tattooing procedures (excluding cosmetic tattooing). This permit is in addition to a HRPAS licence. Any enquiries regarding this permit, or the requirements for overseas tattooists, should be directed to the [Office of Fair Trading](#).

Premises

While the premises where events are held will vary in type and location, they are all considered 'fixed premises' under the Act. The HRPAS licence issued by the local government for the event will only apply to the area where the event is being held. For example, if the event is being held in a convention centre, this may be a section of the centre, or the whole centre.

The requirements of the Queensland Development Code (QDC) apply to all providers of HRPAS, including those offered at one-off events. The licensee must consider how the premises will meet the expected QDC criteria. Some considerations may include:

- From a practical perspective, the size of the premise may require innovative solutions to be developed to incorporate compliant clean and dirty zones, sterilization room/s and hand washing facilities.

- From a practical perspective, the type of hand wash basin needs to be considered as the size and layout of the premise may limit choices. A self-contained hand wash station with cold water, and a separate self-contained instrument cleaning facility with hot and cold water, may potentially provide an acceptable solution. Appropriate signage will need to be provided e.g. 'not for public use', 'handwashing only'.
- From a practical perspective, floors must be finished in materials suitable to enable easy cleaning and walls must be finished in materials suitable to enable easy cleaning. Black plastic on the floor may be considered acceptable for a one-off event.

Booths/workstations

It is recommended that there should only be one or two operators per booth, and that each booth be provided with appropriate barriers or entry restrictions to prevent public access to the work area. This will reduce the likelihood of potential injury or infection transmission to persons attending the event.

Each workstation should be self-contained with:

- receptacles for cleaning and disinfecting products for the work bench and the client's skin
- waste containers, including compliant sharps containers
- containers for storing clean items and equipment
- containers for storing soiled and contaminated items and equipment.

If a central sterilization room for the reprocessing of reusable equipment is established, it should be supervised at all times and have adequate barriers to prevent access by non-approved personnel.

Infection control qualification

All persons providing a HRPAS at the event must hold the infection control qualification required by the Act (HLTINF005 – Maintain infection prevention for skin penetration treatments, or its former title HLTIN2A, HLTIN402B, HLTIN402C).

This requirement may affect interstate and overseas tattoo artists participating in the event. It is recommended the event organiser/licensee considers this requirement well in advance.

Infection control guidelines

The Guidelines apply to all one-off events. A copy of the Guidelines must be kept on the premises in accordance with the licence conditions.

Under the Guidelines, all equipment and jewellery used in skin penetration procedures should be clean and sterile before use. Single-use pre-sterilized disposable instruments and equipment may be evidence that the Guidelines are being complied with.

Records

Records must be kept by all operators providing HRPAS at the event. A system to maintain a record of all HRPAS provided by each operator should be implemented by the person in

charge of the event (the licensee). These records should be provided to the person in charge of the event at the end of each day and must be made available for inspection by a local government authorised person upon request.

Waste

The person in charge of the event must ensure all waste generated at the event is removed and disposed of appropriately in accordance with the requirements of the local government.

The storage and disposal of sharps must be carried out in compliance with the relevant legislation, including the use of sharps containers. All clinical waste must be managed in accordance with the [Guideline for Clinical and Related Waste](#).

Further information

For further information on operating a one-off event with HRPAS, contact your local government Environmental Health team.



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