Nova Scotia
Safe Body Art Standards

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Environment, December 2018.
ISBN 978-1-55457-905-1

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Standard:	Nova Scotia Safe Body Art Standard
Approval date:	December 7, 2018
Effective date:	February 1, 2019
***Established and approved by*:**	Honourable Randy Delorey Minister, Health and Wellness
Version:	1

1 STANDARD STATEMENT

(1) The Nova Scotia Safe Body Art Standard establishes the minimum operational requirements to reduce and eliminate risk factors in performing a body art service as defined in the Safe Body Art Act and the Safe Body Art Regulations.

(2) The Nova Scotia Safe Body Art Standard is established under the authority of the *Safe Body Art Act* and the *Safe Body Art Regulations*.

DEFINITIONS

2 (1) In this standard, the following definitions apply:

Antiseptic means an agent that destroys disease-causing micro-organisms on human skin or mucosa.

Applicator means a device for applying a substance and includes a single-use disposable spatula or a similar device.

Bacteria means single-cell micro-organisms that may cause disease in plants, animals or humans.

Biomedical waste means items saturated or dripping with body fluids, or items that could reasonably be expected to be contaminated with infectious substances and includes sharps and anatomical waste such as human tissue.

Body fluids means blood, semen, saliva, secretions, and sputum.

Hand hygiene means a process to remove or destroy micro-organisms on the hands.

Hazard means the potential to cause harm to the client or operator, and can be biological, chemical, or physical.

High level disinfection (HLD) means a process, capable of destroying or irreversibly inactivating all microbial pathogens, but not necessarily large numbers of bacterial spores.

Infection means entry into and multiplication of infectious micro-organisms within the body.

Intermediate level disinfection (ILD) means a process capable of killing vegetative bacteria, mycobacteria including *Mycobacterium bovis* and/or *M. terrae,* most fungi, enveloped (lipid) viruses and most non-enveloped (non-lipid) viruses.

Low level disinfection (LLD) means a process capable of killing most vegetative bacteria, some fungi, enveloped (lipid) viruses and some non-enveloped (non-lipid) viruses.

Mucous membrane (mucosa) means moist tissue that lines some organs and body cavities such as nose, mouth and lungs, and secretes mucous.

Puncture means accidental or intentional penetration through the skin or other body tissue, not including bone.

Regulations means the *Safe Body Art Regulations*.

Risk means the probability that harm will occur as a result of exposure to a hazard.

Sharps container means a dedicated, puncture-resistant, tamper-resistant, leak-proof container, which is impenetrable by sharps.

Spore means a form assumed by some bacteria that is resistant to heat, drying and chemicals.

Virus means a micro-organism that only replicates within a living host cell.

(2) Definitions under the *Safe Body Art Act* and the *Safe Body Art Regulations* apply to this standard.

3 APPLICATION

This standard applies to a permanent body art facility, mobile body art facility, and temporary body art facility.

REQUIREMENTS

Permits for Body Art Facilities

4 Application for permit **(Section 7 of the Act, Section 7 of regulations)**

(1) If an application is not complete, the Department must notify the applicant in writing and request the information necessary to make the application complete.

(2) If information is not supplied by an applicant within 3 months of a request under subsection (1), the Minister may reject the application and must immediately advise the applicant in writing that the application has been rejected.

(3) An applicant may request from the Minister an extension of the 3-month time limit prescribed in subsection (2).

5 Posting Permit in Conspicuous Location

A conspicuous location means to be located so it is clearly visible by all patrons and potential patrons upon entering the facility.

Facility Construction and Design Criteria

6 Lighting (Clause 15(3)(a) of the regulations)

(1) Lighting and lighting fixtures must be designed to prevent accumulation of dirt and be easily cleanable.

(2) Body art facilities must be supplied with sufficient artificial light to ensure the safe and sanitary delivery of body art services, and to facilitate reprocessing of the instruments and cleaning of the facility.

(3) Unless otherwise specified, the minimum lighting intensities should be:

(a) 110 lux at a distance of 89 cm (3 ft.) above the floor in storage areas, and in all other areas and rooms during periods of cleaning;

(b) 220 lux at a distance of 89 cm (3 ft.) above the floor in areas used for handwashing, utensil storage; and in toilet rooms;

(c) 540 lux at the surface where personnel is performing body art services or is reprocessing instrument and equipment where personnel safety is a factor.

(4) Except as otherwise specified, all lighting fixtures in body art service, storage and reprocessing areas must be shielded with shatter-proof coverings.

7 Water Supply (Clause 15(3)(b) of the regulations)

(1) Hot and cold potable water under adequate pressure and in sufficient quantities must be provided throughout the facility.

(2) A private water system must be tested for total coliform and E. coli at an accredited laboratory twice per year or as required by the public health inspector.

(3) A copy of all sample results during the past twelve months must be kept at the facility for review.

8 Washroom (Clause 15(3)(c) of the regulations)

A washroom must have a hand wash station equipped as described in section 12.

9 Storage (Clause 15(3)(e) of the regulations)

Clean instruments, sterilized instrument packs, and other body art supplies must be:

(a) stored in a manner that protects from dust, moisture, vermin and cross contamination;

(b) accessible only by authorised personnel; and

(c) stored in smooth, non-absorbent, easily cleanable units.

10 Storage of Personal Items (Clause 15(3)(f) of the regulations)

The body art facility must maintain a designated space for storage of operator and personnel items to prevent cross contamination to work areas, body art products and equipment.

11 Separate (Clauses 15(3)(h), 15(4)(a) of the regulations)

In the regulations and this standard, separate means separation by time, space or an impermeable surface to prevent cross contamination as determined by the public health inspector

12 Hand wash station (Clauses 15(4)(d), 15(3)(c) of the regulations)

A hand wash station must be continuously supplied with:

(a) a method of drying hands that uses single-service products dispensed from a dispenser, a touchless hot air dryer, or hand towels laundered after each use;

(b) a supply of liquid soap in a soap dispenser;

(c) a garbage receptacle; and

(d) potable running warm water under pressure.

13 **Temporary Body Art Hand Wash Station** **(Subclause 18(1)(a)(ii) of the regulations)**

Each temporary body art facility must have a:

(a) plumbed or portable hand washing station for body art personnel as described in section 12; or

(b) shared hand-washing sink as approved by a public health inspector.

14 **Temporary Body Art Cleaning Area** **(Subclause 18(1)(a)(v) of the regulations)**

(1) Temporary body art facilities must have access to an area used only for cleaning and disinfecting of body art equipment or body art instruments that are not required to be sterile at the point of use.

(2) The cleaning area must be located and equipped to allow for effective cleaning and disinfection as described in the regulations and standards or as approved by the public health inspector.

Operating a Body Art Facility

15 **Personal Hygiene** **(Clause 19(a) of the regulations)**

Personnel must:

(a) wear sanitary clothing and footwear;

(b) use personal protective equipment when there is a risk of cross contamination;

(c) take adequate measures to prevent cross contamination;

(d) perform hand hygiene as often as is necessary to prevent contamination of the body art products, equipment, instrument, surfaces, and the client;

(e) remove or secure any object or substance from their body that might fall into or otherwise contaminate the body art procedure area;

(f) refrain from any behaviour or practice that risks contaminating the environment; and

(g) not eat or drink while providing a body art service or reprocessing instruments.

16 **Client Awareness and After Care Records** **(Section 20 of the regulations)**

Client awareness and after care records must include the following:

(a) a description of the specific procedure, including a statement that health risks could be associated with the procedure;

(b) a description of what the client should expect during and following the procedure, including recommended after-care instructions that are procedure-specific;

(c) a statement that it is possible that certain medications and pre-existing health conditions may interfere with the healing process or put the client at increased risk of complications and that consultation with a health professional before receiving a body art service is advised;

(d) a statement that body art removal may not be possible or, if it is possible, that any effective removal may leave scarring or mutilation;

(e) approximate healing times and any physical restrictions that may be necessary during the healing time;

(f) the directive to seek medical attention if complications are suspected or developed; and

(g) restrictions on physical activities such as, but not limited to, bathing, water activities, gardening, or contact with animals, and the duration of the restrictions.

17 **Exposure Response Records** **(Section 21 of the regulations)**

In the event of accidental exposure to blood or body fluids, the body art facility operator must document the exposure, including at a minimum the:

(a) first and last name, date of birth, complete mailing address, and phone number of each person exposed;

(b) first and last name of each operator and all personnel involved in the incident;

(c) date of exposure;

(d) site of exposure on the body;

(e) circumstances surrounding the exposure;
(f) advice that the individual was given to seek medical attention; and
(g) action taken.

18 Person or persons in charge (Section 23 of the regulations)

There must be a designated person in charge physically present in the body art facility when body art services are being offered or carried out.

Controlling Hazards

19 Animals (Section 24 of the regulations)

No animals of any kind will be allowed in any body art facility except service animals and those approved by the public health inspector.

20 Hand Hygiene (Clauses 24(1)(d), 24(2)(e) of the regulations)

(1) Hand hygiene must be performed using alcohol-based hand hygiene product or soap and running water.

(2) Hand hygiene using alcohol-based hand hygiene product may only be used as a method for hand hygiene when hands are not visibly soiled.

(3) Hand hygiene must be performed when there is a risk that hands have become contaminated.

(4) Personnel must be trained in the proper hand hygiene technique.

21 Alcohol-Based Hand Hygiene Product and Dispenser (Section 24 of the regulations)

(1) Alcohol-based hand hygiene product must:
- (a) have an alcohol concentration between 60% and 90%;
- (b) not be used beyond its expiry date; and
- (c) be used as per manufacturer's instructions.

(2) To prevent cross contamination, the alcohol-based hand product must:
- (a) be supplied in a disposable dispenser or in dispensers that can be taken apart to be cleaned and disinfected between refills;
- (b) be available and within reach of the service provider wherever body art services are provided, even if a hand washing sink is available;
- (c) not be placed at, or adjacent to, hand washing sinks to avoid confusion with liquid hand soap; and
- (d) be clearly labelled as alcohol-based hand hygiene product.

(3) An alcohol-based hand hygiene product dispenser must not be topped up with additional product.

22 Liquid Soap and Dispenser (Section 24 of the regulations)

(1) To prevent cross contamination, liquid soap must either be:
- (a) dispensed from a single-use container that is discarded when empty; or
- (b) dispensed from a reusable container that is emptied, cleaned, disinfected, rinsed and dried before refilling.

(2) A dispenser must not be topped up with additional liquid soap.

23 **Linen** **(Section 24 of the regulations)**

(1) Clean linen must be kept separate from used linen at all times.

(2) Used reusable linen must be:

(a) handled with a minimum of agitation to avoid contamination of air, surfaces and persons;

(b) laundered and dried between clients; and

(c) stored in a manner to prevent cross contamination.

24 **Biomedical Waste** **(Subclause 15(4)(e)(v) and clauses 24(2)(d) and 24(2)(e) of the regulations)**

(1) Sharps must:

(a) be handled in a manner that prevents exposure to bloodborne pathogens;

(b) not be re-used;

(c) be disposed of in a sharps container immediately after use; and

(d) not be intentionally recapped, bent, sheared or broken prior to disposal.

(2) A sharps container must be:

(a) located close to the point of use;

(b) located out of reach of clients;

(c) securely closed when at the maximum fill line; and

(d) when full, disposed of or safely stored until disposed.

25 **Glove Use** **(Section 26, clause 24(2)(e) of the regulations)**

(1) Disposable medical examination gloves are required to be worn:

(a) for all invasive procedures;

(b) for contact with body fluids, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin;

(c) when handling items visibly soiled with body fluids; and

(d) when the body artist has non-intact skin or potentially infectious conditions on the hands.

(2) Operators and personnel must choose disposable medical examination gloves that are:

(a) classified as class II medical devices by the federal *Food and Drugs Act* and the *Medical Devices Regulations*;

(b) appropriate to the task;

(c) appropriately sized to provide adequate protection; and

(d) compatible with client and personnel sensitivity and allergies.

(3) Disposable medical examination gloves must not be reused and must be discarded and changed:

(a) when switching tasks;

(b) between client services;

(c) if the integrity of the gloves is compromised;

(d) immediately after completion of the procedure; and

(e) before touching clean environmental surfaces.

26 **Gowns, Arm Barriers or Aprons** **(Section 26, clause 24(2)(e) of the regulations)**

Personnel must wear gowns, arm barriers or aprons if it is deemed there is a risk the body art activity may result in contamination of the personnel or client's skin or clothing through contact with blood, other body fluids or chemicals used in cleaning and reprocessing, or through contact with equipment or instruments contaminated with blood or other body fluids.

27 Skin Preparation **(Subsection 24(2) of the regulations)**

(1) Body art must not be performed on a skin surface which:
- (a) shows signs of infection;
- (b) has a sunburn, rash, acne, moles, or open lesions; or
- (c) manifests any evidence of unhealthy conditions.

(2) If an area of skin needs to be shaved, the skin area must be cleaned before and after shaving.

(3) Only single-use disposable razors may be used.

(4) Prior to the body art service, the skin surface must be wiped with an approved skin antiseptic as described in section 28.

28 Skin antiseptic **(Clauses 24(1)(d), 24(2)(e) of the regulations)**

Skin antiseptic must:
- (a) be appropriate for the area of the body;
- (b) be applied for the required contact time with the skin;
- (c) have a Health Canada Natural Product Number (NPN) or a DIN;
- (d) be used as per the manufacturer's instructions; and
- (e) be in single package or dispensed in a manner not to contaminate bulk supply.

29 Inks **(Section 24 of the regulations)**

(1) Tattoo inks or permanent make-up ink must meet the requirements of the federal *Food and Drugs Act* and *Cosmetic Regulations*.

(2) Mixing or diluting ink must be done in a manner that does not contaminate the ink.

(3) Inks must be dispensed in a manner that does not contaminate bulk supply.

30 Bulk Body Art Product Handling **(Clauses 24(2)(e), 29(f) and Section 27 of the regulations)**

(1) Bulk body art products must be dispensed into individual single-use disposable containers.

(2) Bulk body art products must be dispensed in a manner that does not contaminate bulk supply.

(3) Bulk body art products must be stored in a manner to prevent cross contamination.

(4) Body art product applicators must not be double-dipped into bulk body art products.

(5) A new individual container must be used if additional body art product is required during the procedure.

(6) Re-usable ink caps must be cleaned and disinfected with high level disinfectant, or a disinfectant with a medical device license, or cleaned and sterilized between clients.

31 Bandages and Coverings **(Clause 24(2)(e) of the regulations)**

If covering is needed, the area of the skin that has received body art must be covered with a sterile, single-use, non-adhesive dressing intended to cover wounds.

32 Sterile Instrument Handling **(Clause 24(2)(e) of the regulations)**

Sterile body art instruments and supplies must be inspected for package damage before use and if the integrity of the sterilization package is compromised the instrument must be discarded or reprocessed before use.

33 **Jewellery** (Clause 29(c) of the regulations)
Jewellery intended to be used in new piercings must be made of material that meets the Association of Professional Piercers Jewellery Standards.

34 **Facility Cleaning and Disinfection** (Section 24 of the regulations)

(1) Non-high contact surfaces must be cleaned at a frequency that will prevent the accumulation of dust, dirt, and other debris and clutter, and disinfected when required.

(2) High-contact surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected after each client.

(3) Blood spills must be immediately cleaned and disinfected using HLD.

35 **Equipment, Instrument and Surface Reprocessing** (Section 24, clause 29(a) of the regulations)
Reusable non-critical, semi-critical and critical instruments must first be cleaned as described in sections 36, 37, 38, and 39, then disinfected or sterilized as described in sections 40 and 41 in accordance with the intended use/risk of the instrument using at a minimum the minimum level of reprocessing described in Table 1.

Table 1 Instrument/Equipment Classification

Intended use of the instrument/ equipment/surface	Level of Risk Classificatio	Minimum Reprocessing
Instruments that present a high risk of infection if they are not sterile, such as those that enters the sterile body, including instruments that hold sterile items	Critical	Sterilization
Any instrument that is intended to contact non-intact skin or with a mucous membrane but ordinarily does not penetrate it.	Semi-Critical	High Level Disinfection (HLD)
Instruments that are intended to contact only intact skin, but may accidentally come in contact with non-intact skin or mucous membranes	Non-Critical	Intermediate Level Disinfection (ILD)
Any instrument or surface that during routine use contacts intact skin and not mucous membranes.	Non-Critical	Low Level Disinfection (LLD)

36 **Protective barrier removal** (Clause 29(g) of the regulations)
After the protective barrier is removed, the instrument, equipment or high contact surface referred to in clause 29(g) of the regulations must be cleaned and assessed to determine the level of disinfection required in accordance with section 35 or as required by the public health inspector.

37 **Pre-cleaning** **(Section 24, clause 29(a) of the regulations)**

(1) Reusable instruments that will not be immediately cleaned must be pre-soaked in a compatible detergent or enzyme solution prior to cleaning or as described in the manufacturer's instructions.

(2) Reusable equipment and instruments must be taken apart for cleaning as described in the manufacturer's instructions.

(3) Any single-use disposable parts must be discarded prior to cleaning.

(4) Any instruments with chips or cracks after cleaning must be discarded.

38 **Manual Instrument Cleaning** **(Section 24 and clause 29(a) of the regulations)**

(1) Instruments or equipment must be cleaned using tube and tip cleaning brushes in a wash basin filled with enough warm soapy water to completely immerse the largest item to be cleaned.

(2) After cleaning and prior to disinfection or sterilization, items must be thoroughly rinsed with potable water then dried in a manner not to cause recontamination.

(3) Any instruments or equipment that still contain debris after cleaning must be recleaned.

39 **Ultrasonic Machine or Instrument Washer** **(Clauses 29(a) and 29(h), Section 30 of the regulations)**

An ultrasonic machine or instrument washer must be:

(a) only used after manually cleaning;
(b) operated so that the cleaning solution is changed daily at a minimum or more often when the solution is visibly dirty;
(c) cleaned, dried and disinfected at the end of the day;
(d) operated and maintained per manufacturer's instructions;
(e) operated with the lid on to prevent splashing and reduce aerosolization; and
(f) clearly labeled as biohazardous and located in the decontamination area.

40 **Instrument, Equipment, and Surface Disinfection** **(Sections 24 and 28 and clause 29(h) of the regulations)**

(1) Disinfection must be undertaken after cleaning and drying on all semi-critical and non-critical instruments, equipment and surfaces.

(2) Disinfectant must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

41 **Instrument Sterilization** **(Section 24, clause 29(i) of the regulations)**

(1) Sterilizing heat resistant instruments and equipment must be done using steam sterilization or a method approved by a public health inspector.

(2) If the sterilizer is to be used for hollow instruments or lumened devices, the sterilizer manufacturer must confirm in writing the sterilizer's suitability for these instruments.

(3) The following must not be used for body art instrument sterilization:

(a) dishwasher;
(b) ultraviolet light or irradiation;
(c) boiling;
(d) steam pressure cookers;
(e) glass bead sterilizer;
(f) microwave, ultra violet sterilizers, dry heat sterilizers, or domestic ovens;
(g) chemiclaves and chemical sterilants; and
(h) any equipment that is not intended to sterilize body art instruments.

42 Sterilizer Installation and Qualification **(Section 24, clause 29(i), section 30 of the regulations)**

(1) New, repaired or back-up sterilizers must be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

(2) Before a sterilizer is put into routine service, the sterilizer must:
- (a) pass at least three consecutive cycles in an empty sterilizer with the appropriate challenges (i.e., biological, chemical); and
- (b) pass at least one cycle challenged with a full test load.

(3) For dynamic air removal sterilizers, three consecutive air removal tests shall be conducted in an empty sterilizer with the air detection test pack, as described in the CSA's 'Effective Sterilization in Health Care Facilities by the Steam Process' [CSA Z314.3-09 Clauses 12.4.3.2 to 12.4.3.4].

(4) A sterilizer must be re-qualified as described in (2) after it has been moved, after any major repairs, and after unexplained sterility failures.

43 Sterilization Verification and Monitoring **(Clause 28(3)(b), subclause 29(i)(iv), Section 30, and clause 32(2)(b) of the regulations)**

Each sterilization load must:
- (a) meet the sterilizer manufacturer's required mechanical parameters including pressure, temperature, and sterilization cycle duration;
- (b) achieve the defined end point for all chemical indicators and integrators; and
- (c) if conducting a spore test, test negative for growth.

44 Physical Monitoring Requirements **(Subclause 29(i)(iv), Section 30 of the regulations)**

(1) The pressure, sterilization temperature and time at sterilization temperature must be recorded with every sterilization load.

(2) The pressure, sterilization temperature and time at sterilization temperature must meet the manufacturer's requirements and be suitable to achieve sterilization of the instruments being sterilized.

(3) If the sterilization is unsuccessful, refer to sections 46 and 47 for required action.

45 Chemical Monitoring Requirements **(Subclause 29(i)(iv), Section 30 of the regulations)**

(1) An external and internal chemical indicator specific to the type of sterilizer being used must be used with every package.

(2) For steam sterilization, a type 5 integrator must be used in every load.

(3) Each instrument during each load must pass the chemical indication and chemical integrator test referred to in subsections (1) and (2).

(4) The results of the chemical indicator and chemical integrator tests must be recorded in the sterilization log.

(5) If the sterilization is unsuccessful, refer to sections 46 and 47 for required action.

46 **Biological Monitoring (Spore Testing)** **(Subclause 29(i)(iv), Section 30 of the regulations)**

(1) Biological monitoring for the sterilizer must be:

(a) performed every two weeks at a minimum; and

(b) packaged and run through the sterilizer cycle in the same manner as an instrument.

(2) After completing the sterilization cycle, the ampoules or spore strips and the control strip must be sent to a third-party laboratory for testing.

(3) Instruments should not be used until spore strip test results are verified.

(4) The results must be attached to the sterilization log.

47 **Failed Spore Test or Sterility Failure** **(Section 31 of the regulations)**

If there is a failed spore test or the sterilizer fails, the operator or personnel must immediately:

(a) remove the sterilizer from service;

(b) not use instruments processed after the last passed spore test challenge;

(c) switch to a backup qualified sterilizer or use pre-sterilized, disposable instruments;

(d) notify a public health inspector;

(e) repeat the test;

(f) if the repeat test passes and there is no indication of a system malfunction, repackage and re-sterilize the items from the failed test batch; and

(g) if the repeat spore test fails, repair the sterilizer.

Records

48 **Record Keeping**

The body art operator must have the following operational records available for review at the facility for a minimum of two years:

(a) client awareness records as described in section 16;

(b) after care instructions as described in section 16;

(c) client records as described in section 34 of the regulations;

(d) pre-sterilization records as described in section 33 of the regulations;

(e) sterilizer log monitoring records, if reprocessing instruments, as described in section 49;

(f) instrument maintenance records as described in section 50;

(g) exposure response records as described in section 17; and

(h) personnel records as described in section 35 of the regulations.

49 **Sterilizer Log** **(Subsections 32(1) and 32(2) of the regulations)**

A sterilization log must be maintained for every load and contain the following information:

(a) date or load number of the load;

(b) name of personnel who conducted sterilization;

(c) description of load contents;

(d) sterility records, including any record charts, printouts or electronic cycle records;

(e) physical parameters for each load; and

(f) chemical monitoring records for each sterilizer load.

50 **Instrument Maintenance Records** **(Subsection 28(2) of the regulations)**

A preventative maintenance plan must include at a minimum an inventory of all sterilizers and ultrasonic units used in the body art facility, including the manufacturer's manuals and operating instructions.