

# Tattoo shows, expos and other one-off events

## Guidance for local government

### 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.

The information in this fact sheet is provided to assist local governments in administering, monitoring and enforcing 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) at tattoo shows, expos or similar one-off events.

### 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.

Local governments 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. This permit is in addition to a HRPAS licence. Any enquiries regarding this permit 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 licence must state the premises where the HRPAS are being provided. For example, if the event is being held in a convention centre, the licence only applies to the area where the event is being held — 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. Some considerations of acceptable solutions to the expected QDC criteria specific to one-off events are provided below.

#### Functionality

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 handwashing facilities.

## Hand washing, instrument and equipment cleaning 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'.

## Finishing Materials

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.

## Example images



*An example soft barrier to prevent public access.*



*Example signage 'Not for public use'*



*Example booth/workstation barriers*

## Infection control qualification

All persons providing a HRPAS at the event must hold an infection control qualification prescribed under the Regulation (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 these events, who also must hold an infection control qualification. The event organiser should consider this requirement well in advance. There may be registered training organisations who can assist in the provision of a compliant short course for operators who do not hold the infection control qualification and intend to provide a HRPAS.

## Infection control guidelines

The 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 prior to 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 the operators. 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 an 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](#).

## Contact

For further information on HRPAS at events, contact the [Communicable Diseases Management Unit](#).



© State of Queensland (Queensland Health) 2024  
[creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au)