



## **DRAFT BAHAMAS NATIONAL STANDARD**

### **Code of Hygienic Practice for Beauty & Wellness Part 3 – Particular Requirements for Tattoo Establishments**

**DBNS SLCP 13-3:2016**

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## BBSQ Foreword

This draft national standard is an adoption of the St. Lucia National Standard **SLCP 13-3:2016** *Code of Hygienic Practice for Beauty and Wellness Part 3: Particular Requirements for Tattoo Establishments*. The national committee responsible for reviewing this draft standard is Technical Committee 16 *Beauty Trades and Industry*. This draft standard contains requirements that are relevant for The Bahamas.

## BBSQ Committee Representation

This St. Lucia National Standard will be adopted as a National Standard under the supervision of the National Technical Committee for the Beauty Trades and Industry (NTC 16) hosted by the Bahamas Bureau of Standards and Quality, which at the time comprised the following members:

**Member**

**Representing**

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<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Foreword</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Requirements</b> .....	<b>2</b>
4.1 General.....	2
4.2 Training and competency.....	2
4.3 Customer care .....	3
<b>5 Operational requirements</b> .....	<b>3</b>
5.1 Preparation and handling of instruments and equipment.....	3
5.2 Skin preparation .....	3
5.3 Dyes and pigments .....	4
5.4 Post treatment skin care .....	4
<b>6 Hygienic requirements</b> .....	<b>4</b>
6.1 General.....	4
6.2 Personal protective equipment.....	5
6.3 Single-use items .....	5
<b>7 Facility requirements</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Annex A (normative) Treatment and disposal of sharps</b> .....	<b>6</b>

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## 1 Scope

This national code of practice gives guidelines for hygienic operations of tattoo facilities. This code provides best practice requirements for the provision of tattoo related services.

This national code is applicable to all practices which involve puncturing or piercing of skin or flesh of the human body, for the purpose of permanent tattooing and semi-permanent skin colouring (micropigmentation, semi-permanent make-up and temporary tattooing).

This national code is not applicable to similar processes that relate directly to the medical profession and the development of medical products.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

- *BNS SLCP 13-1 Code of Practice for Beauty and Wellness — Part 1: General requirements*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

### 3.1

#### **practitioner**

person who applies tattoo to the body of another person

### 3.2

#### **tattoo**

indelible mark, figure or decorative design introduced by insertion of dyes or pigments into, or under the subcutaneous portion of the skin

### 3.3

#### **tattoo establishment**

#### **tattoo facility**

establishment operated by any person for the purpose of offering or conducting tattooing

### 3.4

#### **tattooing**

any method of placing ink or other pigment into or under 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

NOTE This term includes all forms of cosmetic tattooing.

### 3.5

#### **tattoo related service**

includes body piercing, cosmetic tattoos, post-surgical tattoos and semi-permanent tattoos

### 3.6

#### **tattoo service provider**

any entity that provides tattoo, body piercing or tattoo and body piercing services for compensation to the public

## **4 Requirements**

### **4.1 General**

All tattoo facilities shall comply with the requirements of BNS SLCP 13-1 *Code of hygienic practice for beauty and wellness — Part 1: General requirements* in addition to the following specific requirements outlined.

The requirements of this part of BNS SLCP 13 supplement those in BNS SLCP 13-1 and should not be considered as the only applicable requirements for the tattoo establishment.

### **4.2 Training and competency**

**4.2.1** Practitioners shall be at least 18 years old and should be able to demonstrate appropriate training for the procedure they are carrying out.

**4.2.2** Full records shall be kept on the premises, of all qualifications and courses attended, and be available for inspection at all times. These should include first aid, hand hygiene, skin disinfection, decontamination of equipment and use of autoclaves.

**4.2.3** Practitioners shall attend the national course on infection prevention and control, and a refresher course at least every year.

**4.2.4** Practitioners should be carefully supervised during the first year of practice by a practitioner who has been successfully practising routinely over the previous five years.

**4.2.5** Records of supervision should be kept on the premises.

NOTE It may take up to two years of fulltime practice to achieve the minimum level of competence.

**4.2.6** Practitioners should be able to demonstrate competency and knowledge on anatomy, diseases and their transmission and infection control procedures.

### 4.3 Customer care

4.3.1 Practitioners should carry out checks to ensure that clients are over 18.

NOTE Tattoo services shall not be offered to minors under the age of 18.

4.3.2 Adequate enquiries shall be made, before the procedure is carried out, to ensure that customers are not suffering from any infectious disease or other relevant medical condition before the operation commences.

4.3.3 Adequate records shall be maintained of all customers, including details of their treatment.

## 5 Operational requirements

### 5.1 Preparation and handling of instruments and equipment

5.1.1 Every precaution shall be taken to prevent contamination of equipment and follow proper infection control practices during the procedure.

5.1.2 Needles should be soldered onto needle bars with lead-free solder.

NOTE Some practitioners neutralize the flux residue with a baking soda and water solution prior to cleaning and sterilising.

5.1.3 Needle shall not be tested on tattooist's skin before or during use.

5.1.4 Tattoo needle and needle tube tip shall be maintained in a sterile condition prior to being used and shall not come into contact with any contaminated surface during use.

5.1.5 Tattoo machine or motor frame, clip cord and spray bottles shall be covered with disposable plastic sheath which shall be disposed of after each client.

### 5.2 Skin preparation

5.2.1 The client's skin shall be cleaned before any invasive procedure is carried out.

5.2.2 An alcohol-based skin disinfectant (antiseptic) should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines.

EXAMPLE Solution of 70 % alcohol in 0.5 % chlorhexidine or wipes containing 70 % alcohol.

5.2.3 Solutions used to wipe procedure sites shall be freshly made-up for each client, to discourage the growth of potentially harmful micro-organisms in the solution.

5.2.4 If the client's skin is broken, sore, infected or damaged in any way at or near the site to be tattooed or pierced, the procedure should be postponed until the skin is healed.

5.2.5 Where applicable, to mark the placement of a piercing, a single use water-based marker pen should be used.

### 5.3 Dyes and pigments

5.3.1 All dyes or pigments used for tattooing, micro-pigmentation and semi-permanent tattooing should be sterile and inert. They should be bought from reputable suppliers and should be appropriate for the procedure they are being used for.

5.3.2 Fresh pigments from a clean container shall be used for each customer. The containers used to hold the dyes or pigments for each customer shall be sterile, pre-packed or single use.

5.3.3 Containers shall be disposed of after each client, or decontaminated and sterilized after each client and kept in clean conditions until the next use, in which case the containers will need to be autoclavable.

5.3.4 The dyes or pigments should be supplied with data sheets stating the level of sterility each dye or pigment has, and whether or not it contains any metal impurities.

### 5.4 Post treatment skin care

5.4.1 Suitable anti-bacterial skin cleanser should be used on area of skin where tattoo has been applied.

5.4.2 Apply anti-bacterial lotions or creams to the tattooed area of the skin, if necessary.

5.4.3 Clean sterile dressing shall be applied over completed tattoo. Dressing should remain over tattooed area for 3-5 hours.

5.4.4 In the case of cosmetic tattoos, aftercare cream shall be applied immediately following the procedure. The tattooed area should be kept dry for 24-48 hours.

5.4.5 Written instructions shall be provided to each customer on how to care for the tattoo and how to prevent infection from occurring.

## 6 Hygienic requirements

### 6.1 General

6.1.1 "Clean" and "dirty" zones shall be maintained in the treatment area.

6.1.2 Once equipment has entered the "dirty" zone, even if it is not used, it shall be decontaminated before it is put back into the "clean" zone.



**6.1.3** All surfaces that could become contaminated should be protected with paper roll during use; this should be changed after every client. If the paper roll becomes contaminated it should be discarded as hazardous or clinical waste. If the paper roll is not contaminated, it can be discarded as non-hazardous waste.

EXAMPLE Piercing chair, work surface.

**6.1.4** Paper or other material used as a covering on a chair or seat or couch and any towel, cloth or any article which is applied to the customer's skin shall be clean and shall not have been used in connection with any other customer, unless it consists of a material which can be, and has been adequately cleaned.

## **6.2 Personal protective equipment**

**6.2.1** The practitioner should wear a disposable, single-use plastic apron to protect his/her own clothing during procedures and to prevent possible cross-contamination. Aprons should be changed after every client and disposed of as hazardous or clinical waste after use.

**6.2.2** If heavy bleeding occurs, or if dealing with a large spillage of blood or body fluids, the practitioner should consider the use of eye protection and/or a full-face visor to protect the eyes and/or the mucous membranes of the nose and mouth from body fluid, including blood, splashes.

## **6.3 Single-use items**

**6.3.1** If a piece of equipment has been identified for "single use only" it shall not be re-used on any other client.

**6.3.2** Any package with this symbol on the outer pack is designed for single-use only and shall not be re-used.

**6.3.3** All razors shall be single-use only.

**6.3.4** Needles used for tattooing shall be single-use only. They should be discarded into a sharps bin immediately after use.

**6.3.5** Elastic bands on tattoo motors shall be changed in between clients.

## **7 Facility requirements**

For tattoo and cosmetic piercing, there should be sufficient space to conduct the business.

EXAMPLE 5 m<sup>2</sup> (54 ft<sup>2</sup>) floor space for each practitioner in the establishment.

The treatment area shall be solely used for giving treatments and must be completely separated from all other rooms by full height walls or partitions.

**Annex A**  
(normative)

**Treatment and disposal of sharps**

Sharps are used needles or any single-use item of equipment that may pierce the skin if not disposed of in a rigid container. They shall be discarded in designated sharps containers placed within the treatment area (includes razors).

Sharps bins shall be colour-coded and labelled correctly as per requirements of the national competent authority.

The details requested on the front of the sharps bin should be completed when the bin is assembled and when it is locked. This is so that the source can be tracked if there is a problem after collection.

Sharps bins should be positioned out of the sight and access of unauthorised personnel. Do not store on the floor or window sills – they should be stored above knee and below shoulder level.

Sharps bins should be handled with the lid in the “closed” position to avoid accidental spillage of the contents, and held away from the body.

Before collection, sharps bins should be stored in a locked area inaccessible to members of the public or unauthorised personnel.

Sharps bins shall be collected regularly by licensed contractors and disposed of as specified by relevant competent authority.

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