

Frequently asked questions

- Can I operate in more than one premises in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils? Yes, if an operator is registered with South and Vale and regularly works in two or more licenced premises within the districts they will need to apply for an operator licence at these premises, and ensure it is prominently displayed within the premises.

Guest operators and conventions

- I am / have a guest tattooist visiting do I need to be registered with the council? Yes, guest operators are required to register as an operator with the council and pay a fee.
- I am looking to run a skin piercing convention / event. What do I need to do? You will need to ensure the premises is registered and where no registration already exists register the premises. If the event/convention is repeated in the same location, you will not need to re-register the premises. You will need to register the operator(s) (if skin piercing activities are being carried out). If the event/convention is repeated and the operator who was registered is no longer at the convention you will need to register the new operator. Operators attending the event/convention that are not registered with South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are required to register as an operator. Operators only need to register if they are carrying out the skin piercing activities rather than just demonstrating their art.

Apprentices

- I am an apprentice what do I need to do? You need to register as an operator to carry out skin piercing.

Refunds

- I no longer want to continue with my registration, can I get a refund? If an applicant wishes to withdraw their skin piercing application after payment and submission, they can request a refund. A refund will not be granted if an officer has visited your premises regarding an application. The refund will deduct an administration fee and will only be refunded onto the card which made payment. Applicants will need to provide their payment reference number.

Treatment rooms

- Do I need a wash hand basin in the treatment room? Yes, a wash hand basin is required within the treatment area and must where necessary, be for the sole use of the operator(s).
- Can my treatment room be used for other activities? No, the byelaws require treatment is given in a treatment area used solely for giving treatment. This does not apply if the only treatment to be given is ear piercing or nose-piercing using a hygienic piercing instrument.

Moving premises

- I am moving what do I need to do? You will need to re-register at your new premises.

Sterilisation

- Are glass bead sterilisers, UV light boxes or ultrasonic cleaners suitable for sterilisation? No, these are not deemed adequate to sterilise equipment
- What type of autoclave should I be using? Type B steam sterilisers tend to be the most suitable for skin piercing activities. See more information below:
 - Type B steam sterilisers (also known as “vacuum” or “porous load” sterilizers): These have sterilisation cycles that start by pulling a vacuum on the chamber to remove most of the air in the chamber and within porous, hollow or wrapped items; this is followed by a series of pulses and removal of steam to dilute any remaining air, before the chamber is brought to sterilising conditions. These sterilisers are suitable for porous, hollow or wrapped items. Any wrapping must conform to the standard BS EN 868, showing they are of a type that does not prevent the passage of steam and will resist the passage of contamination after sterilisation has occurred.
 - Type S steam sterilisers: These are similar to type B, but have only been validated to process specific loads (and are normally produced to sterilise wrapped dental handpieces). These sterilisers are suitable for porous, hollow or wrapped items only if validated for those specific items to be processed.
 - Type N steam sterilisers: These are steam sterilisers with no assisted air removal. These sterilisers are suitable for non-porous, nonhollow (solid) and unwrapped items only.

Cleaning chemicals

- What cleaning chemicals do you recommend? Household detergent is adequate for most routine environmental cleaning. For high risk environmental

surfaces such as treatment surfaces, a hypochlorite solution of 1000 parts per million (PPM) available chlorine should be used.

Health questionnaires and aftercare advice

- Where can I find example health questionnaires and checklists? Examples can be found at Advice and Safe Practice for Body Piercing pages 38 – 42; Advice and Safe Practice for Tattooing pages 38 – 42; Advice and Safe Practice Micropigmentation pages 33 – 37.
- Where can I find example aftercare leaflets? Examples can be found at Tattooing and body piercing guidance Toolkit pages 59 – 62; Advice and Safe Practice for Body Piercing page 43; Advice and Safe Practice for Tattooing page 43; Advice and Safe Practice Micropigmentation page 38.

Training

- Do you recommend any training providers? No, we are unable to recommend any training providers. However, you should ensure your training covers both theory and practical training and covers the following areas:
 - Hand hygiene and skin care.
 - The use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
 - Sharps management and management of exposure to blood and body fluids.
 - Safe handling, storage and disposal of waste materials.
 - Cleaning and disinfection of the environment.