

Due to the prevalence of pre-sterilized tattoo and body piercing equipment, it is necessary for the Columbus Health Department to clarify the requirements regarding sterilization.

According to OAC 3701-9-02 (B)(5)(d):

*The operator shall maintain procedures acceptable to the board of health ensuring that persons performing tattooing or body piercing services on the premises of the business shall disinfect and sterilize all non-disposable equipment or parts of equipment used in performing procedures, by utilizing methods meeting disinfection and sterilization requirements in accordance with rule 3701-09-08 of the Administrative Code; and OAC 3701-9-08 (D):*

*The operator shall provide a steam sterilizer (autoclave) for sterilizing all needles and similar instruments before use on any patron. Alternate sterilizing procedures may be used when specifically approved by the board of health. Sterilization of instruments will be accomplished in the autoclave by exposure to steam for at least fifteen minutes at a minimum pressure of fifteen pounds per square inch, temperature of two hundred fifty degrees Fahrenheit or one hundred twenty-one degrees Celsius.*

If an operator wishes to use needles or similar instruments that they themselves have not sterilized (purchased pre-sterilized), the following documentation is required:

- 1) Documentation showing that the needles or similar instruments were packaged at a facility approved for sterile manufacturing by the FDA;

or

- 2) A spore test or other biological monitoring test for each lot of pre-sterilized needles or similar instruments.

If you have any questions about this clarification please contact Gene Smith, RS at 645-1708.