

# UKTTA Tattoo Convention 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023

## Skin Piercing at the NEC

### Guidance Note for Exhibitors

*The following guidance note is intended to provide you with information on the basic standards expected of an exhibitor who will be carrying out skin piercing whilst at the National Exhibition Centre.*

#### **What is skin piercing?**

Skin piercing activities include acupuncture, electrolysis, cosmetic & body piercing (including microneedling), semi-permanent skin colouring and tattooing. All types of piercing undertaken in a commercial capacity will fall under the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. As well as this, the activities also need to be registered with the local authority as required by byelaws made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

#### **Who enforces health & safety at shows at the National Exhibition Centre?**

Whilst the NEC have health & safety staff the actual enforcement of health & safety legislation falls to officers of the Local Authority in which the NEC is based i.e. Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

#### **Why do exhibitors need to register?**

The main purpose of registration is to ensure that piercing is conducted safely. In line with this the registration procedure ensures that basic amenities are provided to allow the piercing to be conducted safely, and that anyone conducting the piercing is competent to do so.

#### **Is there a charge for registration?**

Although there is no charge to register individual stands, there is a charge to register each **exhibitor**. The fee is to cover administrative time spent by officers who process the applications. **This registration is a one-off fee for unlimited attendance at shows at the NEC for the activity they have previously registered for.** Once registered the exhibitor would need to notify Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council of their intention to trade at subsequent shows but no additional fee is required.

Presently the fee is £42.50 per person. Registration should be completed online in addition to payment of the fee.

#### **When should Exhibitors register?**

They should ensure that they are registered as soon as possible in advance of the show. Exhibitors should ensure they have registered by the end of March 2023 to allow time for the administrative process. Registrations will not be accepted after this deadline.

## How do I register?

Complete the online form for the Registration of Persons at the NEC using the link provided by the organiser, and make payment online. A unique number will be generated for each person registered which will correspond to the payment.

## What would happen if exhibitors operated at the show at the NEC without being registered?

It is an offence to conduct acupuncture, electrolysis, cosmetic & body piercing (including microneedling), semi-permanent skin colouring and tattooing without the persons conducting the treatment being registered. Health & Safety Officers frequently visit shows, and where skin piercing activities are being undertaken, registration and the provision of necessary facilities may be checked.

## What is the position if the people who will be conducting skin piercing activities at the NEC are already registered with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council - do they need to register again?

No - if the activity they are undertaking is the same as that previously registered for they do not need to register again. Exhibitors should however notify Solihull council they are attending the show by e-mailing [pprotection@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:pprotection@solihull.gov.uk) and providing proof of previous registration.

## What are the basic requirements for a stand where skin piercing activities will be taking place?

### Stand

- There should be an adequate constant supply of clean hot and cold water with sanitising soap or detergent and suitable disposable paper towels or equivalent. For the UKTTA Tattoo Convention 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 **banks of wash hand basins will be provided by the organiser for the sole use of exhibitors. These will be within the hall and a short distance from the stands. This negates the need to have a wash hand basin on every stand.**
- The treatment area should provide adequate privacy for the customer - this will obviously be dependant upon the type of piercing being undertaken.
- All aspects of the stand, including furniture and fittings should be in good repair and be capable of being effectively cleaned.
- You should have adequate provision for gas points &/or electrical socket outlets for the equipment in use.
- All tables, couches and seats used by clients during their treatment should have a smooth impervious surface which is capable of being disinfected & should be covered with a paper sheet that is changed between each client.
- All waste materials should be placed in a washable, leak proof & covered receptacle.
- There should be provision to ensure safe storage of used needles i.e., sharps box that is covered & leak proof & designed for the purpose.

## **Cleansing**

- There should be adequate facilities and equipment for the purpose of sterilisation - unless pre sterilised items are used.
- Whilst conducting the treatment, protective clothing, paper, towels, cloths etc. used by the exhibitor should be clean (and sterile where appropriate) and not have been used for another client.
- Any equipment used during the treatment should be in a sterile condition and be kept sterile until it is used.
- There should be adequate storage facilities for all items to ensure they remain clean and free from contamination.

## **Exhibitors**

- Their hands and nails should be clean, and nails kept short.
- They should be wearing clean washable clothing, or alternatively disposable covering.
- Any open wounds must be effectively covered by an impermeable dressing.

**Refer to the Byelaws on the Solihull Council website for further information.**

## **Further Information**

You can contact Solihull Council's Food and Safety Team on 0121 704 8018 & via e-mail [pprotection@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:pprotection@solihull.gov.uk).  
Information and links to the relevant Byelaws via the [website](#)