**Effective 09/11/2025, the previous Requirements for Body Art Facilities have been rescinded and replaced with Body Art Facilities Rules Mich Admin Code, R 333.13101 – R 333.13118 (link). Please review the new Rules and the existing Law (2010 PA 375) to ensure compliance. If you have any questions, please contact your local health department or the state health department (bodyart@michigan.gov). The following are the major updates:**

## TATTOO

**Rule 9.**

(5) Body art technicians shall not perform body art procedures on skin or mucosal surfaces that have been affected by any topical anesthetic, external analgesic, or another product that contains an anesthetic active ingredient, unless the product, dosage, and directions for use are appropriately prescribed by a licensed physician for use before or during body art procedures. Documentation of the prescription must be made part of the client record.

(6) Body art technicians shall not perform a procedure on the nipple or genital area of a minor regardless of written consent and presence of a parent or legal guardian of that minor.

**Rule 13.**

(8) Topical anesthetics, external analgesics, or any other products containing an anesthetic active ingredient must not be applied to any skin or mucosal surface, unless the use is appropriately prescribed and delegated by a licensed physician in this state.

(9) Documentation of the prescription referenced in subrule (8) of this rule must be made part of the client record, and the delegation of duties to anyone other than a physician must comply with section 16215 of the act, MCL 333.16215. (This includes Bactine Max or other OTC products)

(15) If rotary pen tattoo machines are used, only machines that utilize presterilized, single-use needle cartridge systems with appropriate backflow prevention devices, such as membranes or barriers, or those equipped with detachable, single-use disposable sterile combo couplers and detachable, single-use disposable casings or casings that can be cleaned and sterilized, are allowed for use.

(16) When employing a needle cartridge with an appropriate backflow prevention device, the rotary pen tattoo machine must be covered with an appropriate single-use disposable barrier while in operation, and it must be cleaned and disinfected immediately after each use.

(17) Cartridges used in rotary pen tattoo machines must have manufacturer-provided proof and verification of the backflow prevention device's effectiveness and have undergone testing to ensure compliance, or the artist must demonstrate effectiveness through field testing.

(18) To field test, a needle cartridge must be filled with fluid, such as water or ink, held upright with the tips or needles facing upwards, and the plunger operated at least 100 times to assess for any indications of backflow or leakage.

(19) The use of a rotary pen tattoo machine that utilizes a sponge at the opening of the chamber to prevent the entry of pigment, blood, or other potentially infectious materials into the machine is strictly prohibited.

(24) Tattoo pigment or ink bottles must be tightly closed when not in use. Tattoo pigments or ink may not be stored on the procedure surface. If tattoo pigment or ink bottles are stored in the procedure area, they may not be accessed during the performance of a procedure without first removing and disposing of contaminated gloves and performing hand washing. New gloves must be used to complete the procedure.

(25) Expired products must not be used for procedures and must be discarded on expiration. Products that have a secondary expiration date, such as a period of time after opening, must be labeled with both the date opened and the new expiration date and must be discarded on expiration.

(26) (d) If an ointment is applied, the ointment must either be from a single-use packet or by using an applicator in such a way that the original container is not contaminated.

(26) (e) A protective product or dressing appropriate to the procedure performed must be applied under the manufacturer's instructions.

## PIERCING

**Rule 9.**

(6) Body art technicians shall not perform a procedure on the nipple or genital area of a minor regardless of written consent and presence of a parent or legal guardian of that minor.

**Rule 14.**

(2) Material certificates from jewelry suppliers for jewelry used for piercings must meet the following:

(a) Be available to the department upon request.

(b) Be updated from the supplier for each new lot of material

(3) Piercing guns, stud-and-clasp piercing systems, or other similar devices, instruments, or systems are prohibited in body piercings.

(4) All body jewelry used for piercing must be new and unused, cleaned in accordance with the jewelry manufacturer's instructions, and sterilized before use. If the manufacturer does not provide instructions for use, the item must be inspected for cleanliness and sterilized in an autoclave according to the autoclave manufacturer's instructions. Jewelry that is individually packaged and appropriately sterilized by the manufacturer does not need to be cleaned and autoclaved at the facility.

(5) (a) Any and all materials that meet ASTM or ISO standards for implantation.

(6) All threaded or press-fit jewelry must have internal tapping.

*-Note: Toothpicks must be disposed of in a sharps container*

## STERILIZATION / REPROCESSING

**Rule 1.**

(1) (h) "Autoclave" means a device that is intended to sterilize products by means of pressurized steam. An autoclave must comply with 1 or more of the 3 types of steam programs defined as B, N, and S by EN13060 / ISO 17665, and must be capable of sterilizing hollow items, or lumens. An autoclave can remove air from the load by means of any of the following:

(i) Gravity displacement.

(ii) Fractionated vacuum.

(iii) Steam flush-pressure pulse.

(i) “Automated instrument washer” means a mechanical washer designed specifically for the decontamination of instruments before sterilization. These devices must comply with ISO 15883-1/2. Automated instrument washer includes a washer-disinfector or washer-sterilizer.

(ss) “Reprocessing” means a validated process used to render an instrument, which has been previously used or contaminated, fit for a subsequent single use. Reprocessing is designed to remove soil and contaminants by cleaning and to inactivate microorganisms by sterilization.

**Rule 16.**

(4) When warm water is used, it should not exceed 104 degrees Fahrenheit or 40 degrees Celsius.

(6) Instruments must be disassembled.

(7) (a) Soaked or immersed in an enzymatic or other appropriate solution.

(7) (d) Processed through an appropriately covered ultrasonic cleaner.

(8) Processes in subrule (7)(a) to (e) of this rule may be accomplished using an automated instrument washer.

(9) All sterilization loads must include a Class V or better chemical indicator.

(10) Chemical indicator results must be recorded for each sterilization cycle.

(14) The expiration date for reusable sterilized instruments must follow the packaging manufacturer’s instructions.

(15) Tools used for reassembly must be cleaned and disinfected immediately before use.

(16) All jewelry must be clean and disassembled before sterilization.

(17) Ultrasonic cleaners, instrument washers, and autoclaves must be used, cleaned, and maintained in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions, and a copy of the recommended procedures for the operation of the autoclave must be kept on file at the body art facility. All sterilization procedures must be compliant with ANSI/AAMI ST79 (4.28).

**Rule 17.**

(3) The owner or operator of a body art facility shall demonstrate that the autoclave used is capable of attaining sterilization by weekly spore detection tests. These tests must be verified through an independent laboratory. Test records must be retained by the owner or operator for a period of at least 3 years and be made available on request.

**Rule 19.**

(18) If on-site sterilization of disposable instruments or new unused jewelry, or both, for piercing is performed at the facility, the cleaning and sterilization must occur in a location that is not subject to reasonably anticipated contamination.

*Note: Dry heat sterilizers are no longer approved for use in body art facilities. Any instrument or jewelry sterilization must take place by using an approved autoclave.*

## GENERAL

**Rule 1.**

(1) (z) "Hand washing" means physically removing or reducing most microorganisms from the intact skin of the hands. The temperature for handwashing must be not less than 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

(1) (xx) "Single-use, disposable" means products or items that are intended for 1 time, 1 individual use, and are disposed of after use on each client, including, but not limited to, the following:

**Rule 3.**

The licensing and inspection rules do not apply to procedures that are utilized as a part of a patient's treatment and are performed by or under the control, direction, and on-site supervision of a physician who is licensed in this state.

**Rule 4.**

Tattooing, branding, or body piercing, as defined by the act and these rules, are the only procedures allowed within a body art facility.

**Rule 9.**

(7) (c) Maintain fingernails in a manner to allow thorough cleaning and prevent glove tears.

**Rule 10.**

(4) Facility created or altered documents must be at least as comprehensive as state-provided sample documents in order to be approved by the department.

**Rule 12.**

(2) (a) Safety data sheets for all hazardous chemicals that clients may be exposed to.

**Rule 13.**

(4) Before a procedure is performed, the immediate skin area and the **areas of the skin surrounding where the artist will be touching** and where body art is to be placed must be cleaned and then prepared with an appropriate skin preparation antiseptic in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

(20) Sterilized instruments may not be used if the package integrity has been breached, compromised, is wet or stained, or the expiration date has been exceeded without first repackaging and re-sterilizing as prescribed in R 333.13116, if approved by the manufacturer.

**Rule 15.**

(4) If an object is likely to be touched or contaminated during the procedure, it **must** be covered with an appropriate barrier such as barrier film, a clip cord sleeve, dental bib, or table paper. A barrier used to cover equipment must be discarded at the end of each procedure.

**Rule 19.**

(23) All sinks must be plumbed and connected directly to an approved water supply system and an approved sewage disposal system. Sinks must have warm running water under pressure. Portable sinks must not be approved in a permanent facility.

(26) One hand sink must serve no more than 3 body art technicians with readily accessible and unobstructed access where the body artists can go to and from their workstations without having to touch anything with their hands.

(31) Live plants are not allowed in procedure areas or reprocessing areas.

## TEMPORARY FACILITIES

**Rule 20.**

(5) (b) (iii) Provide enough temporary hand washing sinks with **warm water under pressure**, liquid soap, and single-use disposable paper towels to adequately service the number of body art technicians present.

(v) Only single-use, disposable sterilized instruments must be used.

(vi) If new and unused jewelry or instruments are sterilized on site, there must be documentation that a spore test was performed on the auto*clave* not more than 7 days before the first date that the temporary license is in effect.

*Note: We no longer differentiate between Affiliated and Non Affiliated licenses.*