Needle Cartridges for Tattooing

Needle cartridges with a protective membrane reduce the risk of blood and body fluids contaminating equipment and transmitting bloodborne pathogens such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV.

Remember:
- Always use individually pre-packaged and sterile needle cartridges.
- Double-check that the packaging has not been compromised.
- Open packages in front of your client.
- Record each needle cartridge lot number and expiry date on the client record.
  Keep the records for a minimum of three years.
- Immediately discard the used cartridge into an approved sharps container. Do not reuse.

How do you know if a needle cartridge has a membrane?
- Check the box that the cartridges come in, or
- Check the manufacturer’s website, or
- Contact the manufacturer

Tear down instructions when using needle cartridges with a protective membrane:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Instruction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Covers for machine, grip tube &amp; clip cord</td>
<td>Discard covers immediately after use, then clean and LLD to ILD* equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-usable drive bar, detachable</td>
<td>Clean and use LLD to ILD* or sterilize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-usable drive bar, fixed to machine</td>
<td>Clean and use LLD to ILD* (double-wipe method)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-use grip tube or drive bar</td>
<td>Discard immediately after use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-usable grip tube</td>
<td>Clean and use LLD to ILD* or sterilize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*LLD to ILD: Low-level disinfectant to Intermediate-level disinfectant, which must have a DIN (Drug Identification Number) or NPN (Natural Product Number)

Needle cartridges without proof of a protective membrane can be used with:
- Single-use disposable grip tube and single-use disposable drive bar or
- Reusable grip tube and reusable drive bar that is cleaned and sterilized after each use

Have questions?
Call your public health inspector at 905-799-7700.