

Beauty Services Legislation and Standards – New Zealand

Bylaws

As you have already learned, The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 outlines requirements that organisations must follow to ensure that the workplace is safe. In addition to this legislation, there are also specific legal requirements that apply to the area in which you operate. These are known as 'Bylaws'. Put simply, Bylaws are rules that are developed by local councils. Before you open a business, you must contact your council and seek information relating to your compliance requirements. For beauty service businesses, many councils require a health and hygiene licence and will have specific requirements for the business premises, conditions of operations, record keeping and infection control. As an example, the table below outlines three (3) councils and provides links to the applicable Bylaw and licencing requirements:

Location	Link to licence requirements	Link to bylaw
New Plymouth District Council	Health and Hygiene Licence	New Plymouth District Council Bylaw 2010
Auckland council	Health and beauty businesses	Health and Hygiene Bylaw 2013
Masterton district council	Health Licences	Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw 2019

While each council may have different ways of categorising and risk assessing beauty services; the commonalities across all are having high levels of hygiene in the following areas:

- Equipment
- Premises
- Personal

In terms of major variances, each council has different requirements for:

- Permits and registration
- Record keeping

Conduct research online to find the specific requirements of your local council, or contact them directly: [Council Contact List](#).

The New Zealand Association of Registered Beauty Professionals

The New Zealand Association of Registered Beauty Professionals (NZARBP) is an industry body that was formed in 1968. The purpose of this association is to standardise the way in which beauty services are provided in New Zealand. NZARBP website has a range of information and resources that provide guidance for beauty service professionals to be able to provide high level services which are safe and in line with what the rest of the industry is doing. As a starting point, review the following resources:



[Rules and Regulations](#)

[Health and Hygiene Guidelines - currently under review](#)

[Code of Ethics](#)

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Australian and New Zealand Standards

In addition to legislation, there are a range of Australian and New Zealand Standards which also provide information relating to procedures, guidelines, and specifications to help ensure services are safe. While not mandatory, these standards help to standardise the way businesses do things.

Depending on the guidance material available in your State/Territory, you may have already seen references to a few standards. Examples of standards that apply to the beauty industry include, but are not limited to:

- **AS/NZS 4815-2001** Office-based health care facilities not involved in complex patient procedures and processes-Cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of the associated environment
- **AS/NZS 4187-2003** Cleaning, Disinfecting and Sterilising reusable medical and surgical instruments and maintenance of associated environments in health care facilities
- **NZS 4304: 2002** – “New Zealand Standard for the management of healthcare waste”.

New Zealand Standards are available at: <https://www.standards.govt.nz/>. If you are just starting out in business, it is likely that you won't have access to full copies of the AS/NZS catalogue as you do have to purchase them, however, you can usually find extracts online. As an example, the extract below outlines sterilisation requirements for skin penetration items outlined in (AS/NZS 4815:2001):

Summary of Australian/New Zealand Standard 4815

Where reusable equipment is used in a business providing personal appearance services the operators should read the complete AS/NZS 4815 before sterilising items. There are two approaches for sterilising skin penetration items used in personal appearance services:

- items sterilised unwrapped
- items sterilised while wrapped in a suitable sterilising packaging material.

Unwrapped sterilisation appears simpler than wrapped sterilisation. However, there is the drawback if items are required to be sterile then; they must be used immediately after they are removed from the steriliser. After steam sterilising unwrapped items, they are usually both hot and wet, and care is needed in handling them aseptically. Wrapped sterilisation is preferable to unwrapped because items can be stored in a reliably sterile state, given appropriate storage and handling conditions, and can be opened right at the time when they are to be used. This is not only convenient, but also assists in maintaining aseptic technique during procedures involving the sterilised items. Steam sterilisers must have a suitable drying stage to enable drying of the items in their packets, before their removal from the steriliser.

Processes that do not reliably sterilise

- Sterilising in boiling water units (including "crock pots"), pressure cookers, microwave ovens, ultra-violet cabinets or ultrasonic cleaners is not reliable.
- Soaking in alcohol or wiping with a chemical disinfectant just prior to use (and similar practices) is not adequate for sterilising.

Appropriate sterilisation methods

There are only two acceptable sterilisation methods appropriate for skin penetration items used in personal appearance services:

- moist heat in a benchtop steam steriliser
- dry heat in a benchtop hot air steriliser.

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Steam sterilisation is more appropriate due to its shorter sterilisation times, its versatility and the ease with which it can be controlled and monitored in an appropriately designed steriliser. When compared to steam sterilisation the hot air method can damage the packaging materials and the materials of which some items are made. This makes dry heat a less attractive method of sterilisation.

Source: https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0027/442287/icpas-local-government.pdf

Standards are excellent guidance materials and help to facilitate consistency across industries. They are also a useful reference point when developing policies and procedures in your own business. It is not essential for you to purchase copies of all applicable New Zealand Standards when you are starting a business, however, given they are referenced in many legislative guidance materials, it is important you understand their purpose and function.