

## Association of Professional Piercers Membership Requirements

The following (Piercer) Personal & (Studio) Environmental Criteria must be met or exceeded to gain APP membership. Once accepted, materials should be updated voluntarily by the Member if significant changes are made in the environment, advertising, equipment, aftercare, jewelry, etc. Updates should be submitted within 60 days ANY time changes are made.

\*\*Should any part of this application conflict with local or state regulations, please contact the [APP Board of Directors](#) to see if an exemption can be made.

### ● Personal Criteria — Submitted using the [Member Application](#)

The following must be submitted for each <b>PIERCER</b> applying for membership as a <b>Business Member, Business Member at Large, or Associate Member-Piercer</b> :	Ready to submit
Current CPR certificate AND First Aid certificate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expired certificates will not be accepted.</li> <li>● Training certificates to be renewed upon expiration date.</li> <li>● If no expiration date is listed, two year validity will be granted.</li> <li>● Separate courses or a combined course are acceptable.</li> </ul>	
Current <a href="#">Bloodborne Pathogens</a> training certificate or equivalent training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Training certificate to be renewed annually regardless of expiration date.</li> </ul>	
Proof of how long the applicant has been piercing professionally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Examples of acceptable documents:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ notarized statement (must come from a party other than the applicant)</li> <li>○ dated business document</li> <li>○ dated advertisement/social media post</li> <li>○ dated newspaper article, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Acknowledgement of the current <a href="#">APP Member Code of Conduct and Logo Agreement</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● You will sign this digitally when submitting your application.</li> </ul>	
Questionnaire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Please answer in your own words. No group questionnaires will be accepted.</li> </ul>	

- Used to assess understanding of basic health and safety concepts.
- This will be completed as part of the application. Text input *should* be automatically cached for two weeks for in-progress applications, we encourage applicants to refine and finalize their answers in a more secure system (like a word processing program), then paste the answers into the application when ready to submit.
  1. List all equipment and surfaces in your studio that are sterile.
  2. When do you consider items sterile and under what circumstances are they no longer sterile?
  3. Describe the procedures used to process and sterilize the following:
    - a. Piercing needles
    - b. Contaminated tools
    - c. Equipment in the studio
  4. Define disinfect
  5. What materials, equipment, or surfaces in your studio do you disinfect?
  6. Describe the products and procedures used to disinfect objects or surfaces in your studio and the frequency in which they are used.
  7. Define contaminated and describe the concept of cross-contamination.
  8. Describe when and how you wash your hands (please be specific about technique and products used).
  9. When and under what conditions is it necessary to change your gloves?
  10. List three blood-borne pathogens, briefly define them in your own words, and explain how they pertain to our industry.
  11. How is jewelry processed prior to insertion into a new piercing?
    - a. New jewelry
    - b. Previously worn jewelry
  12. How is previously worn jewelry processed prior to insertion into a healed piercing?
  13. List the products and describe the procedures used for tissue preparation before:

- a. Oral piercing
  - b. Body piercing
  - c. Stretching and/or jewelry change
14. How many times are piercing needles used before being disposed of and how do you dispose of them?
  15. What protocol do you have in place for a needlestick?
  16. Do you use a piercing gun for any type of piercing?
    - a. If yes, how is the piercing gun cleaned between uses?
  17. Do you use any type of anesthetics?
    - a. If yes, describe the method and product(s) used.
  18. What other non-piercing services are offered in the piercing room?
  19. What are the specifications for jewelry that you insert into new piercings?
  20. List acceptable jewelry materials and design styles.
  21. Please describe your piercing apprenticeship/training:
    - a. Duration
    - b. Location
    - c. Curriculum
  22. To perform body piercing list how are you:
    - a. Certified
    - b. Licensed
    - c. Legally qualified
    - d. Regulated
  23. List all of the continuing education you have received.
  24. What is your policy on piercing persons under the age of eighteen?
  25. Under what circumstances would you refuse to perform a piercing?
  26. Mistakes happen. If a piercing does not come out as planned, how do you deal with the situation?
  27. List the qualities that you feel are important as a piercer.
  28. Please describe what a good bedside manner is.
  29. What do you hope to achieve by becoming a member of the APP?
  30. Do you have any ideas or suggestions on how to improve the APP?

● **Environmental Criteria** — Submitted using the [Studio Application](#)

\*\*Renewal/resubmission of the following information is required at least every two years if a Member joins the staff **or** if significant changes are made in the studio.\*\*

Only **ONE FILE UPLOAD** will be allowed for each category below. Before beginning the application process, please combine multiple files/photos/scans using one of the following methods:

- Option 1 — Use a free online tool like [CleverPDF.com](#) or [CombinePDF.com](#)
- Option 2 — (Step 1) Open a Word document (or equivalent)  
 (Step 2) Copy and paste all photos/files/scans for each category below into a single document  
 (Step 3) Export to pdf

PDF and JPEG/JPG files under 5MB work best for upload. If a file won't upload, please try compressing or reducing the file size before uploading again.

<p>The following must be submitted for each <b>STUDIO LOCATION</b>.</p> <p>These requirements are applicable to the <b>Business</b> and <b>Associate (Piercer and Non-Piercer)</b> membership categories.</p>	<p>Ready to submit</p>
<p>A \$50 application fee per studio location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This will be charged at the end of the application.</li> </ul>	
<p>Photographs of all studio autoclaves/sterilizers with make, model, and serial number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>MUST</b> be medical grade, preferably with a dry cycle, and meet all FDA standards. Top loading autoclaves and pressure cookers are <b>NOT</b> acceptable.</li> </ul>	
<p>Copy of two most recent biological spore test results for each autoclave/sterilizers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Biological spore testing must be done by a third party and must be updated at least monthly.</li> <li>● International applicants: If third party spore testing is not available, helix testing and daily logs are suitable.</li> </ul>	

Copies of all piercing release forms in use at the studio (piercing, jewelry insertion, minor, etc.)	
Copies of all piercing aftercare information distributed at the studio (oral/body piercing, jewelry insertion, etc.)	
Copy of the current studio business or establishment license	
Piercing business card(s)	
One or more recent samples of applicant's advertising (online, social media, print, etc)	
Copy of Certificate of Liability Insurance (if available)	
Copy of jewelry order invoice(s) from within the last 90 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must include a variety of jewelry sizes and styles in materials appropriate for initial piercings as designated by the <a href="#">APP Minimum Jewelry Standard for Initial Piercing</a>.</li> </ul>	
A copy of a Materials (Mill) Certificate from the jewelry company or companies your studio primarily orders from <b>MAY</b> be requested if needed ( <b>DO NOT send unless requested</b> )	
A NARRATED UNEDITED 360° walk-through video of applicant's entire studio ( <i>specific criteria listed below</i> )	

### Walk-through Video and Studio Environmental Criteria

Upload the video to [YouTube](#). Set to [unlisted](#) and [Creative Commons license](#); go to info and settings > choose advanced settings > Creative Commons license. Save the YouTube link for submission during the application process.

The purpose of submitting a walk through 360° video with your [membership application](#) is to help us determine the level of health and safety awareness in your studio. We look for the criteria mentioned on this list, and also note anything that may be a potential hazard to clients or staff.

Items that are required for membership have been labeled in **\*\*BOLD LETTERING\*\***. Other items ***\*\*in italics\*\**** are strong suggestions that are not necessarily required for membership.

Please note: Any videos missing the items below in bold (if applicable) will most likely need to be re-shot.

WALK THROUGH VIDEO CRITERIA	
<b>VIDEO MUST BE CONTINUOUS, UNEDITED, AND NARRATED - Videos that have been edited or are without narration will not be accepted.</b>	
<b>VIDEOS MUST BE SHOT HORIZONTALLY - Applicants that submit vertically shot videos will be asked to resubmit.</b>	
<b>SLOWLY pan around 360° to thoroughly show the area including ceilings and floors</b>	
<b>Show all rooms and areas of the studio</b>	
<b>Go through every drawer and closet in the shop - Tattoo stations may be omitted</b>	

OUTSIDE AREA	
<b>Your video should include the outside of your building, front and back, including all signage.</b>	

FRONT LOBBY/COUNTER/DISPLAY AREA	
<b>Stand in the center of your lobby and SLOWLY pan around 360° to thoroughly show the area including ceilings and floors. Please show the front, top, and back of your front counter area in detail.</b>	
<b>The counter surface must be glass, metal or other non-porous surface that can be disinfected several times a day.</b>	
<b>These items should be kept at the front counter area. Please show us where they are kept.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>EPA-approved hard surface disinfectant</b></li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Gloves</b></li> <li>● <b>Disposable products such as plastic bags/cups to prevent cross-contamination</b></li> </ul>	
<p><i>Suggestions: Clearly visible signs at the front counter area should state that clients are not permitted to change or remove jewelry inside of the studio.</i></p>	

<b>STERILIZATION / INSTRUMENT PROCESSING ROOM(S)</b>	(If applicable)
<p>Stand in the center of the sterilization room and <b>SLOWLY</b> pan around 360° thoroughly showing the door, counter tops, floor, ceiling, sink(s), autoclave(s), HEPA air filter, or other air purification system etc.</p>	
<p>A completely separate, enclosed sterilization room with walls and door(s) is a requirement for reprocessing used implements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Curtains are NOT acceptable.</b></li> <li>● <b>No other services including but not limited to: Tattooing, Piercing, or Retail Sales shall occur within this room.</b></li> <li>● <b>An enclosed sterilization room for reprocessing used instruments is not required if ALL used instruments are appropriately disposed of after a single use.</b></li> </ul>	
<p>All flooring in the sterilization room must be non-porous and easily disinfected.</p>	
<p>There must be a clear separation between the clean area and the dirty area. Biohazard area should be labeled as such.</p>	
<p>There must be at least one ultrasonic or instrument washer available for processing dirty tools or equipment.</p>	
<p>The ultrasonic unit and the sink used for rinsing contaminated tools should be positioned as far away from the sterilizer as possible in order to reduce the risk of contaminating freshly autoclaved items.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>If space is a problem, one solution would be to install a Plexiglas, stainless steel, or other non-porous barrier to divide clean and dirty areas.</b></li> </ul>	

Hand washing should never take place at the contaminated sink (a posted sign should state so).	
A sign on the door that reads “Employees Only”	
<i>Suggestion: Use a separate heated ultrasonic designated ONLY for processing new, non-contaminated jewelry, prior to sterilization this should be set up in a “clean” area.</i>	
<i>Suggestion: Another option for processing new, non-contaminated jewelry prior to sterilization is a jewelry steamer.</i>	
<i>Suggestion: A HEPA air filter or other air purification system etc., or separate ventilation for the sterilization room is strongly suggested.</i>	
<i>Suggestion: Autoclave should have a closed door, dry cycle intended to sterilize lumens (hollow items).</i>	

<b>EMPLOYEE LOUNGE AREA</b>	(if applicable)
Stand in the center of the area and <b>SLOWLY</b> pan 360° thoroughly showing the floor, ceiling, and countertops), etc.	
No sterilization or instrument cleaning equipment including but not limited to autoclaves and ultrasonic units may be housed in the employee lounge area.	

<b>PUBLIC/EMPLOYEE RESTROOM</b>	(if applicable)
Stand in the center of the bathroom and <b>SLOWLY</b> pan 360° thoroughly showing the floor, ceiling, and countertops, etc.	
No sterilization or instrument cleaning equipment including but not limited to autoclaves and ultrasonic units may be housed in the public or employee restrooms.	
No other services including but not limited to: Tattooing, Piercing, or Retail Sales shall occur within this room.	



The restroom used by employees must have a liquid soap dispenser or a hands-free dispenser and an easy single handed paper towel dispenser or a hands-free dispenser.	
There must be no piercing related items in bathroom storage.	
<i>Suggestion: Signage in the restroom should indicate jewelry removal/changing is not permitted outside of the piercing room.</i>	

<b>EMPLOYEE HAND-WASHING AREA</b>	
Stand in the employee hand washing area and <b>SLOWLY</b> pan 360° thoroughly showing the area.	
Reasonable access to an employee only hand-washing sink is mandatory. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sinks located in the Restroom or Instrument Processing Room, or any room that can be considered occupied or inaccessible at any time are <b>NOT</b> acceptable.</li> </ul>	
The hand-washing station(s) must be equipped with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• both hot and cold running water.</li> <li>• a liquid soap dispenser or hands-free dispenser.</li> <li>• a covered, single-handed paper towel dispenser or a covered hands-free dispenser.</li> </ul>	
<i>Suggestion: The faucet should be hands-free (infrared or foot pedal).</i>	
<i>Suggestion: The soap dispenser should be hands-free (infrared).</i>	
<i>Suggestion: In room hand-washing sinks are preferable.</i>	

<b>PIERCING ROOM(S)</b>	
Stand in your piercing room and <b>SLOWLY</b> pan 360° thoroughly showing the floor, ceiling, countertops, inside & outside of <b>ALL</b> cabinets and drawers, HEPA air filter or other air purification system etc.	

<p>The piercing room must be a completely enclosed, separate room with walls, ceilings, and door(s).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curtains are NOT acceptable.</li> <li>• Walls do not have to be floor to ceiling but should be a minimum of 8ft tall. This height may vary due to local ordinances etc.</li> <li>• Windows should have coverings available for privacy that are non-porous, easily disinfected.</li> </ul>	
<p>No other services including but not limited to: Tattooing, Hair Styling, or Retail Sales shall occur within this room.</p>	
<p>All flooring in the piercing room must be non-porous and easily disinfected.</p>	
<p>All surfaces in the piercing room must be non-porous and easily cleaned. This includes but is not limited to piercing table, mats, shelving, counters, window coverings, etc.</p>	
<p>Sterilized piercing implements should be kept in enclosed and non-porous containers, drawers, or cabinets and stored separately from non-sterile items.</p>	
<p>The sharps container should be securely wall-mounted in order to prevent accidental spillage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It should be at a comfortable height for the shortest person in the studio.</li> </ul>	
<p>Used piercing implements should be kept in a lidded, non-porous tray or container that is marked “Biohazard.”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This tray should be used to transport used instruments to the reprocessing area.</li> <li>• This tray should be stored in a way to limit cross contamination and prevent accidental spillage.</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If piercing implements are not reprocessed, the used implements should be appropriately disposed of after use.</li> </ul>	
<p>Clearly visible delineation between clean areas and dirty areas.</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sharps container and contaminated-tools tray should not be close to sterilized piercing implements and supplies.</li> <li>• One solution would be to install a labeled area above the trash can for contaminated materials, thereby establishing a single contaminated area in the room.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>All trash cans should be lidded, and be foot operated or motion activated.</b></p>	
<p><i>Suggestion: All pictures, posters, decorations, and wall hangings should be framed, non-porous, and cleaned frequently.</i></p>	
<p><i>Suggestion: Marking implements at a minimum must be single use.</i></p>	
<p><i>Suggestion: Trash cans should be placed in low or no traffic areas to avoid accidental exposure.</i></p>	
<p><i>Suggestion: A HEPA air filter or other air purification system should be located in the piercing room.</i></p>	
<p><i>Suggestion: As many products as possible should be sterile or single use.</i></p>	
<p><i>Suggestion: Trash cans should be labeled “Do Not Touch” and biohazardous waste containers should be marked “Biohazard”.</i></p>	
<p><i>Suggestion: All packaged equipment, sundry jars, and other materials and equipment used during a piercing should be handled only with clean, freshly gloved hands.</i></p>	