

# The

[www.piercing.org/app](http://www.piercing.org/app)

Association of  
Professional  
Piercers

Summer 1998: Issue 13

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**Members vote on the new  
Jewelry Standards & Board**

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**LIFE IS SHORT  
AND THE ART IS LONG  
EXPERIENCE FLEETING  
AND JUDGMENT  
DIFFICULT**

**-Hippocrates**

# Point

*state of the APP*

Hello all,

Many thanks go out to all those that were involved in the APP 98 conference. Thank you to all the manufacturers that donated to our raffle fund-raiser. From all the feedback we have received this year's meeting of the minds was inspiring to most that attended. The conference was chock full of informative seminars. It also served as a meeting ground for many people to gain and give information. For those that attended we are always open to your critiques and for next years conference. Next year's conference will again be at the Hard Rock Hotel.

The APP has many projects planned for the next year. We are working on an impressive display at this year's American Public Health Association Conference. We are also working on a new procedural text that will give members the information to maintain studio operation above that of minimum standards. We are also now implementing the newly voted in APP jewelry standards and will soon have APP approved jewelry manufacturers. We are now working on a public awareness campaign; we want to spend more time and effort to educate the public on safe piercing. If you would like to be involved in any way please contact your nearest board member. A reminder to all those online, the APP has a BBS please call or email Jeff Martin for your password and get involved today!

*Gahdi Elias*

APP President,

Mastodon-San Diego, CA

[Mast@inetworld.net](mailto:Mast@inetworld.net)

619-272-1188

### *Please note:*

The Point is an open forum for discussion. The views expressed herein belong to the individual writer or advertiser, and should not be considered an official opinion or endorsement of the APP.

## Proposed APP Jewelry Standards

### *I. Statement of Purpose:*

The APP has determined that it is in the best interests of the public at large and the piercing profession to have minimum standards for jewelry used for body piercing. In accordance therewith, the following standards and protocols are established.

### *II. Approved Jewelry Materials:*

Any changes to existing material requirements shall be effective 1 year from approval by APP members, unless other provisions are agreed upon by the membership. The addition of new materials to these protocols shall be effective immediately upon approval by APP members.

### *Spore test records!*

As part of our ongoing effort to keep our records up to date Members need to send in their current spore test results.

Fax to: (404) 378-0027 or

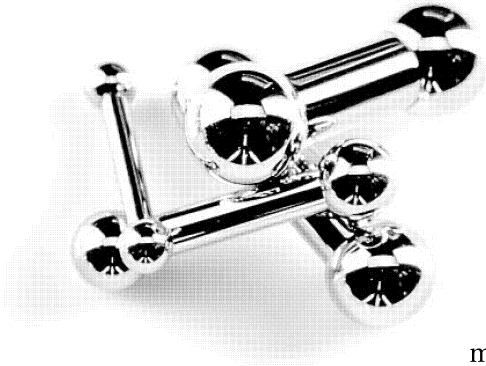
Send to: APP Records

1654 McLendon Ave.

Atlanta GA 30307-2153

Thank you--*AID Sowers*

# What does our company have in common with your customers?



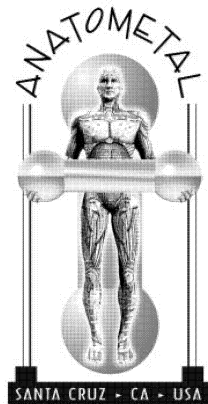
## Quality.

The quality of our jewelry is based on everything from our choice of metals to the hand-polished, mirror finish. We have become the largest manufacturer of Implant Grade Stainless and Titanium as well as Niobium and 18 Karat Gold body jewelry in the industry because of our quality. We have supported the APP from the beginning because we believe in quality. We know that *your* customers want only the best body jewelry available, jewelry of the highest standard, why? There's really only one answer...

## Quality.

Happy Holidays from all of us at Anatometal Body Jewelry  
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Technologically Superior ▶ Professionally Hand Crafted  
High Quality Implant Grade ▶ Piercing Jewelry



**Approved materials include:**

All ASTM implant grade materials- e.g.

- 316 L (VM) Stainless steel  
[ASTM designation: F138-97]
- Carpenter Project 70 316LS Stainless steel [ISO Grade 5832-1 Grade D]
- Wrought Titanium-6 Aluminum 4- Vanadium ELI (Extra low interstitial) Alloy [ASTM designation: F136-96]
- Titanium 1313 (Titanium Niobium-13 Zirconium-13)  
[ASTM designation F 1713-96]

**III. Approved Jewelry Design Requirements**

**New design requirements shall be effective 1 year from approval by APP members, unless special provisions have been agreed upon by the membership.**

**Jewelry must be:**

- mirror polished (highly reflective finish, smooth grain at 100x magnification)
- free of nicks, burrs, and scratches
- free of polishing compound
- free of sharp edges and ends (finished ends)
- free of a gap between the ball and post on barbells

**Within two years of the adoption of the above standard, all threaded jewelry which is 14 gauge and larger must be internally threaded to meet APP standards.**

**IV. Additional Requirements**

**New requirements shall become effective immediately upon approval by members of the APP, unless special provisions have been agreed upon by the membership.**

- In addition to jewelry material and design, Jewelry manufacturers are required:
- To omit ear piercing guns or similar devices, ear piercing studs, or "home piercing kits"(retail) from their inventory.
- Manufacturers shall provide material safety data sheets and/or mill certificates for the materials they use for APP approved jewelry upon request.
- Manufacturers may state "We carry jewelry which meets or exceeds APP standards."
- Manufacturers shall not state "We are an APP approved jewelry manufacturer."
- Manufacturers, if they choose to recognize jewelry which meets or exceeds APP standards, shall differentiate between approved and

non-approved jewelry items in their catalogs, advertisements, documentation, literature, etc.

*Examples:*

*\*Denotes jewelry which meets or exceeds APP standards.*

*\*Style shown does not meet APP standards for use in fresh piercings.*

*\* All items shown meet or exceed APP standards for body jewelry.*

**V. Procedures for Jewelry Approval**

**5.1 Application for Jewelry Approval**

Manufacturers shall provide high quality legible copies of the following information to apply for APP Jewelry Approval:

- Business License
- Video of Production facilities.
- Current Catalogs (both wholesale and retail).
- Current samples of advertisements from the past 6 months.
- 3 samples per style of jewelry submitted for approval (not one piece per gauge/color/gem end/etc.) Example: 3 captive bead rings, 3 straight barbells.
- Material Data Sheets or Mill certificates for each jewelry material submitted for approval.
- Incomplete applications will not be processed.

**5.2 Application as acceptance to terms.**

The submission of an application constitutes evidence of the Manufacturer's agreement to comply with APP standards and protocols, including, but not limited to the agreement to refrain from selling ear piercing guns or similar devices, ear piercing studs, or home (retail) piercing kits, in the event that their application is accepted.

**Providing education for a new Millennium...**



**MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 390288 ANZA CA 92539  
SoCAL: 909.763.9728 — NoCAL: 415.201.2181**

## Summer 1998 Newsletter

Manufacturers are encouraged but not required to offer special APP member only discounts on approved jewelry styles.

Manufacturers may carry jewelry items which are not APP approved, with the exception of ear piercing studs.

Jewelry and Documentation will not be returned to applicants.

All information will be cataloged for future reference/documentation by the APP Jewelry Review Committee.

Manufacturers may submit separate jewelry items at any time.

### 5.3 Accepted Applications

Manufacturers whose applications are accepted and thereafter carry APP approved jewelry will:

- be listed on the APP web site: <http://www.piercing.org/app>
- be listed annually in "The Point", official newsletter of the APP

### 5.4 Revocation of Acceptance

The APP Jewelry Review Committee will investigate documented complaints from APP members.

Complaints shall include:

- a sample of jewelry complaint is based upon.
- a written explanation for complaint.

Manufacturers will be notified of complaints by way of written notice setting forth the basis for the complaint. The identity of the individual or entity lodging the complaint shall not be included in the notice.

Manufacturers shall have 30 business days from the date of mailing of the notice to respond to complaint.

Manufacturers are encouraged to submit same make/model of jewelry for review with their response.

The APP Review committee will decide if revocation of jewelry approval is in order.

If revocation is in order, the Manufacturer will be sent a formal return receipt letter of revocation, including full explanation for revocation.

The revoked Manufacturer shall remove or amend APP approval statements from catalogs, advertisements, etc., within 60 business days.

Manufacturers may resubmit an application for approval at any time.

## VI. Jewelry Review Committee

### 6.1 Purpose:

The purpose of the APP Jewelry Review Committee is to review applications for approval from Manufacturers seeking APP jewelry approval, and to review complaints against existing Manufacturers carrying APP approved jewelry.

The APP Review Committee has the authority to approve, deny, and revoke APP jewelry approval to Manufacturers.

### 6.2 Structure of Committee:

The APP Jewelry Review Committee shall consist of three APP Members; a Committee Director and two Committee Assistants.

Positions in the Jewelry Review committee shall be held for one year.

Members of the review committee shall be appointed at the discretion of the APP Board.

Committee Members shall be removed for cause after notice and an opportunity to be heard by the APP Board.

### 6.3 Requirements for Review Committee:

All review committee members must have a general understanding of body piercing, body piercing jewelry, or metallurgy.

## *acting APP Board*

**Accepting nominations for vote by the membership on two director positions**

### **Gahdi Elias, President**

Mastodon Body Piercing  
4683 Mission Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92109  
619.272.1188

[Mast@inetworld.net](mailto:Mast@inetworld.net)

### **Jeff Martin, Outreach Coordinator**

Piercing Experience  
1654 McLendon Ave.  
Atlanta, GA 30307  
404.378.9100

[jeff@piercing.org](mailto:jeff@piercing.org)

### **Brian Skellie, Treasurer**

Piercing Experience  
1654 McLendon Ave.  
Atlanta, GA 30307  
404.378.9100

[brian@piercing.org](mailto:brian@piercing.org)

### **Al D Sowers, International Representative**

Greenlake Tattoo and Body Piercing  
7615 Aurora Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98103  
206.706.0333

[ald@wolfenet.com](mailto:ald@wolfenet.com)

### **John Ward, MD, Medical Advisor**

"Dr. Jack"  
398 Ockley Drive  
Shreveport LA 71105  
[bones@softdisk.com](mailto:bones@softdisk.com)

[bones@ortho.lsumc.edu](mailto:bones@ortho.lsumc.edu)

Pager: 800.849.2404

Due to conflicts of interest, review committee members may not be jewelry manufacturers, employees, or distributors of wholesale jewelry.

#### **6.4 Duties of the APP Jewelry Review Committee Director**

The APP Jewelry Review committee Director shall be responsible for the overall coordination of the APP Jewelry Review Committee. The Director shall also be responsible for the same duties as the Assistants.

The Director will be forwarded applications from the APP Board for jewelry approval, as well as accompanying documentation and samples.

The Director must maintain a current list of APP Jewelry Standards and Requirements, manufacturers carrying APP approved jewelry, and a log of complaints.

A current updated list must be sent to all APP Board Members on a quarterly basis.

#### **6.5 Application Review:**

Upon receipt of applications and materials the Director will have 10 days to organize and distribute applications, materials and any comments to be sent to the Review Committee Assistants.

Upon receipt of applications and related materials the Assistants will have 30 days to review and comment upon applications, using the standards set forth by the APP for approval of jewelry. Written comments and jewelry samples will then be returned to the Director.

After return of applications, materials and comments from the Assistants, the Director will review comments from the Assistants and then make the final decision for approval or denial of new applications.

Within 10 business days of approval or denial, the Director will contact the applying manufacturer to notify of approval or denial.

The entire process of reviewing new applications should not exceed 90 days.

All applications, related materials, and jewelry samples shall be archived by the Jewelry Review Committee Director for future reference.

#### **6.6 Complaint Review:**

Upon receipt of complaint the Director will have 10 business days to distribute complaints and comments to the Review Committee Assistants.

Assistants will have 30 days to review complaints, responses to complaints, or follow-ups; and to return comments to the Director.

After return of comments by the Assistants, the Director will decide if the complaint is legitimate. Manufacturers will be notified within 10 business days if the complaint is deemed to be legitimate. The Manufacturer shall have 30 business days to respond to the complaint.

If required, the Jewelry Review committee will have an additional 30 business days to continue with their investigation.

If the Jewelry Review Committee requires further action, the committee may choose to seek the outside advice of the APP Board or consultants of the APP.

If revocation of approval is in order, the Director must send the Manufacturer a formal return receipt letter of revocation within 10 business days after the completion of the complaint review process.

#### **6.7 Duties of the APP Jewelry Review Committee Assistants**

The APP Jewelry review Committee Assistants will be responsible for reviewing applications and complaints and providing their written comments to the Director.

Guidelines drafted by [René Martin](#)  
revision date: 10/07/98

## *in the studio*

A few options you can use to improve the quality of the piercing experience... Many of these options may sound familiar, as they are widely employed.

### ***Make your own sterile gloves***

You can use a light inner wrap for glove sterilization in an ordinary autoclave according to manufacturer's instructions. You can use open gloving technique. Nothing unsterilized may touch their outer surfaces after sterilization or else they must be discarded and a new pair of sterile gloves must be donned to complete the procedure.

### ***Packaging for sterilization—all or nothing***

You can include jewelry, gloves, gauze, and needles as well as instruments in one wrap instead of separate wraps.

### ***Sterilizing unwrapped supplies for each procedure***

You can use your regular autoclave to steam sterilize equipment unwrapped according to the manufacturer's instructions, usually a fast 10-15 minute cycle. You can do this even faster in a forced steam sterilizer such as the SciCan Statim 2000 ([scican.com](http://scican.com)). You can send off for biologic spore testing weekly and use Diack temperature indicators to confirm the reliability of your sterilizers.

### ***TechniCare 32oz foot pump***

You can use a cost-effective way to apply it safely, more than just a chemical advantage other over iodine. It is made for non-irritating use as a complete solution for all handwashing and skin prep, oral-mucosal genitourinary and topical ([caretechlabs.com](http://caretechlabs.com))



**We would like to apologize to** Melissa Bell and Rion Wickersham at Slave to the Needle Tattoo & Body Piercing for terminating their membership for reasons unrelated to their piercing standards. We acknowledge that members have to right to disagree with legislation that in their opinion they perceive to be potentially harmful to their community. We would like to welcome Melissa and Rion back to the APP and recognize them as upstanding members.

## Letters

The A.P.P. receives thousands of letters a year, here are a few selections:

### **Dangerous Piercing Kits**

Alaska Cricket Keene

Dear APP Members and Friends,

**W**hile traveling I have come across an eye opening new product being sold at many retail trade shows. It is a piercing kit that retails for around \$20.00. It includes

- one instruction pamphlet
- one loose pair of sponge clamps
- 3 Q-tips in a small plastic bag
- one [allegedly] sterile alcohol prep pad
- one Monoject needle with hub attached
- one piece of "jewelry" not necessarily matching the needle gauge

None of these items [appear to] have been sterilized (except possibly the uncracked hubbed needle).

This new package came to my attention first while in Oregon where legislation is in effect for facilities. After calling the health dept. and their licensing facility, I found that there was not a direct answer or specific regulations on products being sold out of retail shops.

**[Caution: U.S. Federal Law restricts the use of medical devices to sale and use by or on the order of a physician.]**

The woman instructed me to send in a formal complaint to the head administrator.

It is my concern that the wrong people could be using these kits, especially [minors]. If you are concerned also, please write to:

**Health Licensing Office  
Susan K. Wilson, Administrator  
700 Summer Street NE  
Suite 320  
Salem OR 97310**

Maybe in an already licensed state we can set precedence for others to follow such rulings.

Thank you—Cricket Keene

Dear APP,

**I** have recently moved from Dallas to Arizona where I took on a job at HTC Body Piercing. Skin and Bones in Dallas, TX was extremely good to me, but I decided to move on to other experiences. I was brought into HTC to help make some improvements and help them manage one of their stores in Tempe, Arizona. I am still learning so much in this business, and with my knowledge from the APP and the industry and Steve Hayworth's open-mindedness we are working very hard to make changes in Arizona.

I was a little concerned when I came out here. For one thing, HTC does not use corks. Instead Steve has developed a tool which prevents one from ever coming in contact with the point of a needle. My piercings have become more accurate with the use of some of the instruments that he has created. HTC Tempe no longer pierces minors and soon HTC Phoenix will follow in the same practice. We are using an autoclave instead of a chem-clave and we are now carrying jewelry from several different manufacturers... Yes, we carry internally threaded jewelry. Things are running very smoothly at HTC, and I am completely satisfied with the choices I have made.

We are also making major modifications to the shop. We are in the process of building a new sterilization room that will be made of glass so people can see exactly what goes on during the sterilization process. We are also re-tiling and re-painting the shop. I wish that everything can be done today, but it takes time and money and we are making changes at a rapid pace.

I have never experienced a sense of such competitiveness in the piercing

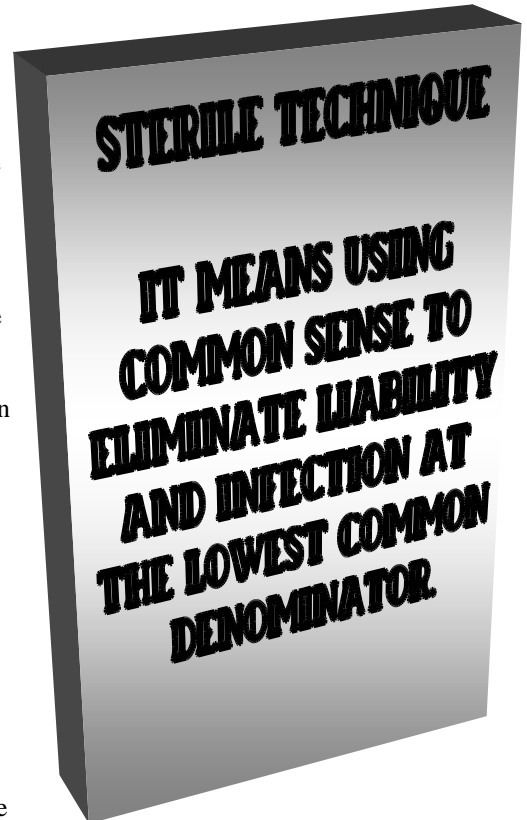
industry until I had moved here. I feel that professionals should stick together and work with each other. I experienced that in Dallas with the connection between the employees at Skin and Bones and Obscurities. Here, I feel like people in other shops are more apt to knock down other shops that do practice good piercing ethics. I am not into this and it completely frustrates me that people can not be more professional than that. All I can do is focus on what is best for me and my clientele and ignore the bad-mouthing that goes on in this town.

I would love for people to come and visit the shop when things are finished. We are working hard to make changes for the better. I am fortunate to work with a wonderful staff of people here at HTC. We work hard together, and they are open to learn all they can from me and from my experiences with the APP.

Check out our web page at

[www.htc-bodypiercing.com](http://www.htc-bodypiercing.com)

Sincerely—Sandee  
[sandeesez@psn.com](mailto:sandeesez@psn.com)



**If you know of any news concerning body piercing, for information concerning ad rates, acceptable material, etc. please contact the Editor**

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**LIGHTPLANE Building Manual \$1.00,** including construction plans \$2.00, circular 25c. Craftsmann Books, Box 1153, Milwaukee 1, Wis.

**PROPELLERS, Plans, supplies for airboats, snow sleighs.** Catalog 10c. Gano Propellers, Box 3284-A, Ft. Worth, Texas.

**HELICOPTER, One man. Experimental marvel. Construct own. Instructions \$3.50.** Mayberry Company, Box 343, St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

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Dr. Robert "Bob" Bell  
CHANCELLOR, G.A.U.

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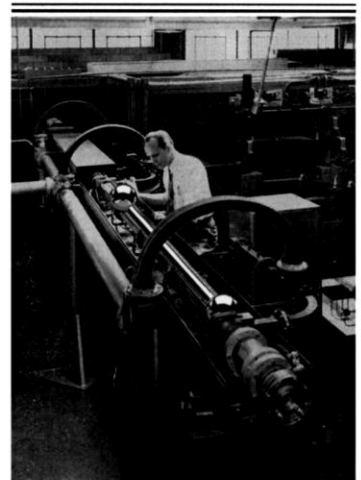
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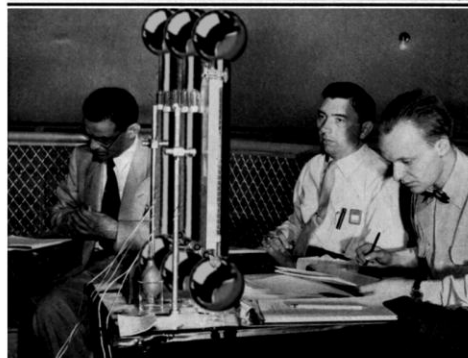
CONTINUED...



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Our Fall '56 Session requires that all *Request Forms* be postmarked no later than March 31, 1956. Become a part of History in the making as a **G.A.U.** graduate, pioneers in the development of the Art and Science that is **BODY JEWELRY MANUFACTURING!**



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*For more information, please write...*

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CENTRAL TOWER BUILDING  
1420 4TH ST.  
SANTA MONICA, CALIF. 90401 USA

**Yes!** Please begin my Admissions Process for the **G.A.U. GRADUATE COURSE** in **BODY JEWELRY THEORY & PRODUCTION!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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**TOOL** Sale, indicators Federal #D81S \$15.00; drills, taps, others. Genex, P.O.B. 665, Sun Valley, California.

**INSTANT** Change kit, four practical tools for any 1/4" drill motor. Two saws, planer, sander; not gadgets. Free literature. Gehlco Tool Co., Box 323, Independence, Kansas.

**MILLING** Machine: New, heavy duty bench model. Complete, only \$149.50. Southern Machine Tool Co., Conyers 1, Georgia.

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**PLYWOOD** Boat plans, 21 for \$1.00. Catalog boat building plans 25c. The Rudder, 15 Murray Street, New York 7.



Colleagues, Members and Subscribers,

We can always find new ways to refine *gentler* techniques, *safer* procedures and *better* jewelry, the three basic qualities of our service. The major benefits of constantly working towards that goal limit your business liability and impart clear conscience. Using sterile technique, implant quality materials for the client to wear, and gentle tissue handling, limits your liability for any piercing ever being infectious, poisonous or traumatic. Using scientific evidence to make the decisions that determine your practice provides safety and reliability.

**Liability—Caveat Venditor, "Vendor Beware"**

Who wants to get sick? (*Other than you—smarty pants*) Practical sense expressed through sterile technique prevents this. Strict use of certified implant materials limits your liability for jewelry leading to any injury, damage, illness, disease or death. Except for materials certified to meet ASTM or ISO standards for surgical implant, at this time, at best only anecdotal safety evidence exists for all other substances commonly used for piercing. **This does NOT mean that you can't use organic or plastic or ethnic pieces.** Consider using them for dressing up when you feel fancy *instead of daily wear* to limit the effects of long term exposure to turpines, heavy metals and other irritants. Too many syndromes have been scientifically linked to things we can avoid.

**Opinions versus documentation**

Over and over again people ask themselves the same questions. "Who told you that story, and what made you think that they were right?"

Opinions are not inherently factual—especially those proffered upon others from a position of supposed authority. Please don't take my word on it, or anyone else's. Carry your own water. Expert opinions may seem useful as ideas in the right direction.

*Look it up yourself in every case.* Much of the danger in our field comes from

***The "Biomaterials Access Assurance Act Of 1998"***

(H.R. 872) [www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov) protects the end consumer from dangerous materials several ways.

The raw materials provider can be held liable if the materials sold was not the same as contracted for, or failed to meet any specifications published by the biomaterials supplier or provided by them to the person who contracted for such product.

**For example:** If Bob's Fictitious Material Source sold a jewelry maker 316 lvm welding wire that does not meet the recipe for ASTM standard designation F 138 when asked for surgical implant quality steel, the source would then be legally responsible for any injuries and damages resulting from the materials.

A certificate of compliance including chemical composition testing should be available for each material used for jewelry intended for new piercing, and at hand to assure educated consumers and protect your business.

Instead, if the jeweler made a barbed hook out of the best raw material, they could be held responsible for determining the suitability of the design for its intended purposes. In the case of dangerous or defective design, the consumer has plenty of federal precedence against designs put into use before legitimate testing.

It is possible that **both** jewelry manufacturers and retailers might end up being held responsible for testing the safety properties of jewelry made and sold for our purposes.

If we may all be held accountable for what we make and sell, we should all continue to band together to further determine safe materials and practices in the meantime. We all benefit from safer products, legally and ethically.

common mistakes made based on assumptions someone formed to fill in the gaps when evidence was lacking.

Some opinions disregard necessary safety measures for preventing infection based on the assumption that if something has not touched blood, it would magically be clean enough not to get someone horribly sick. Unsterilized equipment presents

well-documented health hazards. Anything that has not been sterilized and handled with sterile technique contacts non-intact skin, then the service provider becomes legally accountable for any sort of client infection traced back to that. The scientific detective work and equipment involved in finding epidemiological sources are so commonplace it could be a high school biology student's science project. To limit your liability, you can choose to act on the guiding principles of making things simple, safe and gentle.

Harm reduction conclusively reflects a reciprocal limit of legal vulnerability for our service. Safety benefits everyone. Professionalism dictates doing a complete and thorough job. We can have to our credit doing so with the design of making things better. The net result of providing 100% of what a person should get out of a service should show in the client's satisfaction and ease of recovery.

- Assume responsibility to rein in those loose opinions. Demand substantial evidence. Encourage clients to do the same
- Competently and completely keep changing for the better.

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***...in future issues:***

***Chemicals- what works and what doesn't.***

***Business Forum- Point of Sale, Promotions, Advertising, Etc.***

***FYI- Different writers will boost our vocabulary, as well as our understanding of our work.***

***In The Studio- Step by Step technique from (members) piercers worldwide, and more!***

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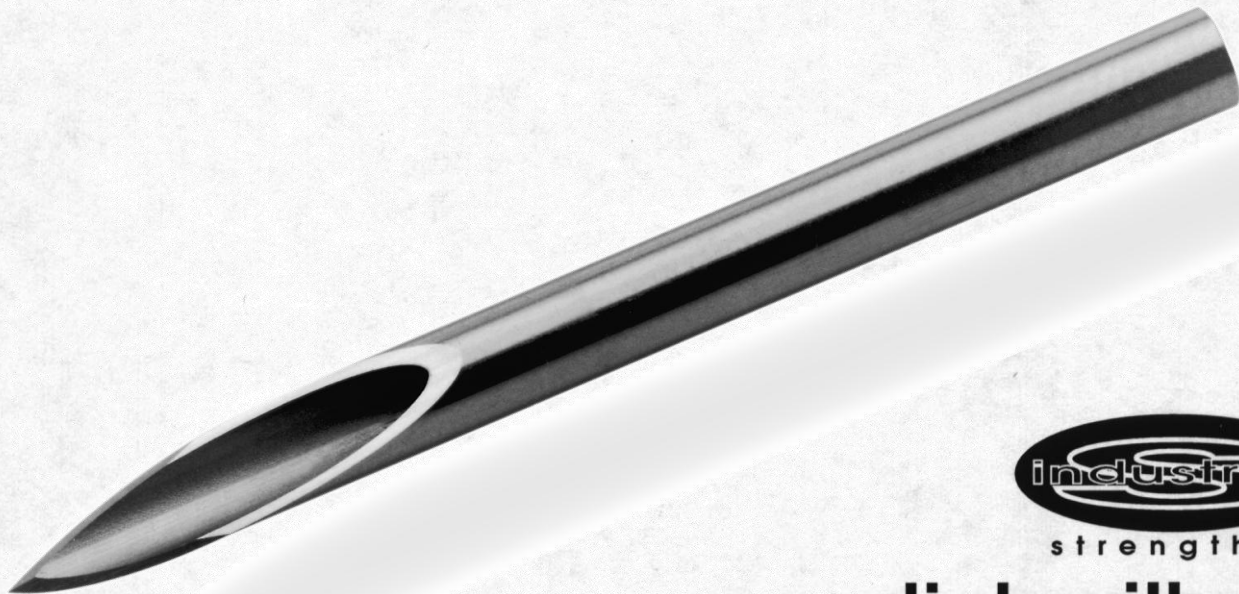
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