

WORKPLACE HYGIENE AND THE SWEDISH STANDARD, A MODEL FOR “GOOD TATTOO PRACTICE”**Jens Bergström**^{1, 2, 3}¹*Heavenly Ink*²*TPE, Tattoo and Piercing Education Scandinavia*³*Srt, Sweden’s Registered Tattoo Artists*

Aim: Time has clearly indicated that the term good practice is relative. How tattooing is practiced is also very different thru out different cultures and within various populations. The way it’s practiced in the modern world and with the increase of resistant bacteria’s however demands a certain level of standard. Much has changed over the past decade, thus forcing the tattoo practitioner to learn more and take in consideration the many different hazards that comes with the trade. Sweden has been in the forefront of standard development over the last twenty years and has had a big success with practitioners working together with governmental issues to increase the safety for the end consumer as well as the practitioner.

Method: In the book “The road to becoming a tattoo artist” the Swedish tattoo association, has put useful information and studies for the artist and apprentice in writing, creating a standard of good practice. It is used by health inspectors as a standard and has been verified by booth dermatologists and doctors as an example for good practice.

Results / Discussion: By doing research and study we now have a working system for education and development of the standard we consider being a bare minimum for practice. Study’s indicate strongly that tattooing must be practiced in a controlled environment and that the hazards increase by large nr when tattooing is done in a home environment.

Conclusion: A harmonized standard is at this point a minimum together with a regulation regarding education and practice.