

5

THE COMING EU/CEN STANDARD FOR TATTOO HYGIENE IN EUROPE

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In the current situation, different guidelines for safe practise apply in different European countries. These guidelines are created by governmental and health organisations or by tattoo artists organisations. Some countries do not have national guidelines at all.

Tattoo artist often operate across borders. Having to adopt to different instructions in different national guidelines however does not contribute to compliance. It is therefore that the German tattooist organisation Deutsche organisierte Tätowierer (D.O.T) started an initiative to create one uniform European guideline for safe tattooing practice.

In 2014, the European Committee for Standardization (C.E.N) has established a European committee for tattooing services. The scope of the committee is standardization of requirements and recommendations for the provision of tattooing services. The final scope is to create a guideline for safe practice of tattoo artists, professionals that apply permanent make-up and every other professional who aims to insert any pigment or dye in human skin.

In every participating country, different stakeholders have interest in the process and the product. These include organizations of tattoo artists as well as representatives of beautician organizations, but also governmental organizations, public health- and medical professionals and manufacturers of products. All are represented via national standardization boards. Current plan is to reach consensus in 2016.