

3

REGULATION OF TATTOOING ACROSS EUROPE AND INTERNATIONALLY

Andy Schmidt¹

¹*German Organization of Tattooists DOT; (Willich-Neersen, Germany).*

The regulation of tattooing across Europe and internationally is a problematic issue. Neither the regulations of the cosmetic industry nor the guidelines of medicinal products can be used for this kind of intervention in the skin. Therefore tattooing needs own regulations for hygiene standards and – very important – for inks and pigments.

The aims of the German Association of Professional Tattoo Artists (D.O.T.) are therefore the development of quality standards, the implementation of hygiene standards for tattoo studios, general research and a close cooperation with national and international authorities. Background of all new regulations should be the protection of the interests of tattoo artists, specifically to avoid a dermal contamination of customers by tattoo inks on the one and to beware a contamination of artists by tattoo inks by inhalation of pigments while working. At the moment, no legal safety in selling/using of tattoo colours is given in Europe. Tattoo artists buy colours only in good faith because they have no possibility to analyze the colours. Therefore regulations to increase the safety of tattooing are extremely necessary. Our primary focus deals with the evaluation of standard methods for testing of colours and to prepare a positive list for usable and safe tattoo colours. Toxicological tests for ingredients of colours as usual for food, cosmetics and pharmaceutical products should be performed by manufacturers of pigments and ingredients and by the tattoo ink manufacturers.

In the last two years the D.O.T. developed the national hygiene standards for Germany (rated also by the AWMF and used by many health offices all over Germany). Now we are in progress to bring these national hygiene standards for tattoo studios in legal force for other European countries.

In conclusion, there are no sufficient regulations of tattooing in Europe and internationally but the German Association of Professional Tattoo Artists is working hard to prepare this together with politics and science, because tattoos have arrived in the centre of European society.