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SURVEILLANCE OF TATTOOING IN ITALY

Pietro Pistolese¹, Liliana Lasala¹, Mariano Alessi¹, Aurelia Fonda¹, Alberto Renzoni², Antonia Pirrera², Gianfranco Corgiat Loia³, Raffaella Pastore³, Marco Fontana⁴, **Manuela Agnello**⁴, Luca D'Ambrosio⁵.

¹Ministry Of Health; (Rome, Italy); ²Istituto Superiore Di Sanita; (Rome, Italy); ³Regione Piemonte, regional public health authority; (Turin, Italy); ⁴ARPA Piemonte, Environmental Agency; (Turin, Italy); ⁵APPA Bolzano, Environmental Agency; (Italy).

In Italy EU Directive 2001/95/CEE was applied with D.Lgs "Codice del Consumo" n° 206 of 2005. It is a law concerning the protection of consumers and users; this legislation guarantees the safety of all products placed on Italian market. This legislation has allowed in Italy the application of Resolution ReSAP (2008):1 (superseding Resolution ResAP(2003):2 on tattoos and permanent make-up) and the development of a surveillance system coordinated by the Ministry of Health.

In addition, REACH Regulation n° 1907/2006 and CLP Regulation n° 1272/2008 provide some restrictions for dangerous substances and specific rules for classification and labelling of substances, mixtures and articles.

The notification system RAPEX is the instrument used in EU for the information flow among local authorities, consumers, producers and users (tattooing laboratories). This system is currently used in Italy.

The surveillance activities in Italy is mainly conducted by:

- NAS (Nucleo AntiSofisticazioni – CARABINIERI), Ministry of HEALTH
- Regional Public Health Authorities (ASL, ARPA)

The analysis of samples is organized with a network composed by Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS) and Regional Public Laboratories specialized according to different analytical methods and chemical matrices.

The results of surveillance activities are published on Italian Ministry of Health website.