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Information Note

Tattoo Inks

Tattooing and permanent make-up (PMU) consist in the injection of inks into the dermis of the skin. As such they are intended to be permanent, and they cause lifelong exposure to the chemicals contained in the inks.

In December 2015 the European Commission asked the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to assess the risks of chemicals classified as CMR (carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction) or as skin sensitisers which are contained in tattoo inks, by preparing an Annex XV dossier for a restriction under REACH[1]. On 31 August 2016 ECHA accordingly launched a call for evidence, open until 23 November 2016, to gather information on these substances and any others that may present a risk to human health in tattoo inks and PMU. The Annex XV dossier is expected to be submitted in July 2017.

Printing inks manufactured and placed on the market by EuPIA members are **not intended** for use in tattooing and PMU, and such uses are **neither recommended nor supported**.

Note: temporary tattoos (transfers applied to the skin using moisture and/or pressure) are not in scope of the ECHA dossier mentioned above. These may be printed using inks supplied by EuPIA members; they are considered to be cosmetic products and are thus subject to the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 on cosmetic products. They may also be classified as toys and fall within the scope of the relevant EU legislation[2].

EuPIA TC
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[1] Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals
[2] Directive 2009/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the safety of toys

Avenue E. Van Nieuwenhuyse 6 - BE-1160 Brussels
Tel: +32 (0)2 676 7480 - Fax: + 32 (0)2 676 7490 - E-mail: eupia@cepe.org *- Internet:* http://www.eupia.org/