

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 REACH¹. In 2016 ECHA accordingly launched a call for evidence to gather information on these substances and any others that may present a risk to human health in tattoo inks and PMU.

A [dossier](#) proposing restriction of CMRs, skin sensitisers and certain other substances in tattoo inks and PMU was submitted in October 2017. ECHA's Risk Assessment Committee adopted an opinion in favour of restriction in November 2018, and the draft opinion of the Socio-Economic Analysis Committee is due to be adopted in Q1 2019. The restriction proposal is then expected to proceed to discussion and voting in the regulatory committee on REACH.

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 legislation².

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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