

Chief Health Officer Advisory Note



6 June 2014

Tattoo ink safety warning for tattoo premises (update 1)

Date issued: 6 June 2014

Issued by: Chief Health Officer, New South Wales

Issued to: All premises conducting tattooing

Key messages

- This advisory does not refer to a current Australian product recall and is for information only.
- The European Union have recalled nine tattoo ink products (listed in Table 1). Some of these products contain a chemical compound (phenylenediamines) and/or higher than permitted levels of trace metal contaminants.
- In NSW it is illegal to obtain, supply, possess or use products one to six* that the EU have recalled and these products should be disposed of. While products seven to nine may be legal in NSW, it is suggested that these products are not used.
- It is the responsibility of tattoo premises to ensure that they request a product quality data sheet (certificates of analysis or an equivalent statement) when purchasing inks from suppliers or directly from manufacturers to confirm that the product is safe and legal for use in New South Wales.

What is the issue?

The EU RAPEX system, a rapid alert system for non-food dangerous products, has recalled particular tattoo ink products (refer to Table 1: Specifications of products recalled by EU RAPEX system). Some of these products contain a chemical compound (phenylenediamines) and/or higher than permitted levels of trace metal contaminants. The European authorities have classified the recall risk as 'serious', the highest of four risk levels.

In NSW, it is illegal to obtain, supply, possess or use products containing phenylenediamines in preparations for skin colouration (tattooing) unless authorised under the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008*. Recalled products one to six listed in Table 1 contain phenylenediamines and are thus illegal in NSW unless authorised by exception. Any product should be disposed of by returning it to the supplier.

While recalled products seven to nine may be legal in NSW they may present a risk to health, it is suggested that these products are not used.

What are the risks?

These inks contain hazardous chemicals.

These inks may provoke a localised allergic reaction from the chemicals they contain. There is no information on the long term impacts from tattoos containing these inks.

For further specific product information see the attached product recall list.

Table 1: Specifications of products recalled by EU RAPEX system

	Product	Brand	Origin	Specified recalled product name
1*	Shader and Liner tattoo set	Colourking	China	<i>Tribal black, Crimson Red and Lavender</i>
2*	Tattoo ink	Kuro Sumi Colors	Japan	<i>Dragons Breath Red (Lot #110)</i>
3*	Tattoo ink	Intenze	China	<i>Cherry Bomb</i> Barcode: 20366L2799034; Batch n°: SS29
4*	Tattoo ink	Eternal Ink	United States (US)	<i>Bringing you the brightest colour period – Lipstick Red</i> Batch number: Lot 139; Exp. Date: 28/12/16.
5*	Tattoo ink	Dragon Tattoo Ink	China	Model numbers: TP-1:77891;TP-2:77891; TP-3:77891
6*	Tattoo ink	Intenze	US	<i>Dark Advanced Black and Grey Tattoo Ink Formula, Dark Tone – Bob Tyrrell Edition</i> Model number: LOT: SS75; EXP: 03 (03/17) Batch: BK56DISimx40; REF:10559C23001
7	Tattoo ink	Silverback Ink	US	<i>Black 11, Exp 12/2015, Batch B 44021213</i>
8	Tattoo ink	Intenze	US	<i>Dark Purple</i> ; Model number: ST1012DP Batch number: Lot: SS83; EXP: 09/30/16
9	Tattoo ink	StarBrite	US	<i>Scarlet Red</i> ; Batch SR74247

*Inks 1-6 are illegal in NSW

Prevention

For tattoo premises:

All premises conducting tattooing are advised to be aware of the recent recalls of tattoo ink in the European Union and ensure that they are not using these products.

It is the responsibility of tattoo premises to ensure that they request a product quality data sheet (certificates of analysis or an equivalent statement) when purchasing inks from suppliers or directly from manufacturers to confirm that the product is safe and legal for use in New South Wales.

Under the *Public Health Regulation 2012* there is a requirement for all businesses involving tattooing to be registered with the local Council. The *Public Health Regulation 2012* set out the requirements that proprietors or occupiers of premises registered under the *Public Health Regulation 2012* must observe. These include premises cleanliness and infection prevention and control measures for staff and equipment used.

For consumers:


Getting any tattoo carries some health risks. The safest way to get tattoos is from professional tattoo premises that are registered with your local council. Avoid getting tattoos in other countries (outside Australia), particularly in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and South America.

More information:

NSW Health website: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/skinpenetration/Pages/default.aspx>

Dr Kerry Chant

**Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary
Population and Public Health**

Product	Image
<p>Category: Chemical products Product: Shader and Liner Tattoo Set Brand: Colourking Name: Tribal Black, Crimson Red and Lavender Type/number of model: 1. Tribal Black Tattoo Ink , 2. Crimson Red Tattoo Ink , 3. Lavender Tattoo Ink Batch number/Barcode: Unknown OECD Portal Category: 53000000 - Beauty / Personal Care / Hygiene Description: Plastic bottle with protective cap and adhesive label. Country of origin: China</p>	
<p>Category: Chemical products Product: Tattoo ink Brand: Kuro Sumi Colors Name: Dragons Breath Red Type/number of model: Lot #110 (bottle), Lot #KCTB10822 (pack) Batch number/Barcode: Unknown OECD Portal Category: 53000000 - Beauty / Personal Care / Hygiene Description: Pack: 4 x plastic bottles with screw-on dropper and sticker, sealed in plastic film. Country of origin: Japan</p>	
<p>Category: Chemical products Product: Tattoo ink Brand: Intenze Name: Cherry Bomb Type/number of model: Article#ST1036CHB Batch number/Barcode: 20366L2799034 Batch n°: SS29 OECD Portal Category: 53000000 - Beauty / Personal Care / Hygiene Description: 4 plastic bottles with screw-on dropper attachment and adhesive labels shrink-wrapped in plastic film. Country of origin: China</p>	
<p>Category: Chemical products Product: Tattoo ink Brand: Eternal Ink Name: Bringing you the brightest Color Period – Lipstick Red Type/number of model: Lipstick Red Batch number/Barcode: Lot 139, Exp. Date: 28/12/16. OECD Portal Category: 53000000 - Beauty / Personal Care / Hygiene Description: Packaging: 4 x plastic bottles with a screw-on dropper, plasticised adhesive labels. Country of origin: United States</p>	
<p>Category: Chemical products Product: Tattoo ink Brand: Dragon Tattoo Ink Name: Unknown Type/number of model: TP-1: 77891; TP-2: 77891; TP-3: 77891 Batch number/Barcode: Unknown OECD Portal Category: 53000000 - Beauty / Personal Care / Hygiene Description: Tattoo ink supplied in plastic bottle with drip and cap and an adhesive label. Country of origin: China</p>	
<p>Category: Chemical products Product: Tattoo ink Brand: Intenze Name: Advanced Black and Grey Tattoo Ink Formula, Dark Tone- Bob Tyrrell Edition Type/number of model: LOT: SS75 EXP: 03/03/17 Batch number/Barcode: Batch: BK56DISimx40; REF:10559C23001 OECD Portal Category: 53000000 - Beauty / Personal Care / Hygiene Description: 4 plastic bottles with a screw-on dropper, plasticised adhesive labels. Country of origin: United States</p>	
<p>Category: Chemical products Product: Tattoo ink Brand: Silverback Ink Name: Unknown Type/number of model: Black 11, Best before date 12/2015 Batch number/Barcode: Batch B 44021213 OECD Portal Category: 53000000 - Beauty / Personal Care / Hygiene Description: Tattoo ink contained in plastic bottle with screw top and dispensing nozzle. Country of origin: United States</p>	
<p>Category: Chemical products Product: Tattoo ink Brand: Intenze Name: Dark Purple Type/number of model: ST1012DP Batch number/Barcode: Lot: SS83 EXP: 09/30/16 OECD Portal Category: 53000000 - Beauty / Personal Care / Hygiene Description: Tattoo ink, Dark Purple, 29.6 ml. Country of origin: United States</p>	
<p>Category: Chemical products Product: Tattoo ink Brand: StarBrite Name: Unknown Type/number of model: Scarlet Red Batch number/Barcode: Batch SR74247 OECD Portal Category: 53000000 - Beauty / Personal Care / Hygiene Description: Red bottle with white label showing the brand, lot and expiry date. Country of origin: United States</p>	