

## **Tattoo: a European standard for more advice, safety and hygiene**

**Developed with the active assistance of French health authorities and tattoo artists, a voluntary European standard details for the first time the hygiene and health safety requirements for performing a tattoo. It aims to disseminate good practices throughout Europe, to better support tattooed people and to promote the most demanding professionals.**

Preventing health problems that may arise during a tattoo is a major issue. Each tattoo artist in Europe today practices his profession in a national regulatory context of variable geometry, or even non-existent. The hygiene and safety rules set by the authorities differ greatly, which limits the possibilities for the tattooed person to have health guarantees on the conditions in which he will be cared for.

After five years of collective work<sup>1</sup>, the European standard NF EN 17169 on tattooing is [today published](#) . France actively contributed to this via [an AFNOR commission](#) , led from the start by a pair representing health authorities and tattoo professionals. Twenty organizations got involved by promoting hygiene standards and good tattooing practices.

### **Develop consumer confidence**

The objective of this standard, which is voluntary, is to improve tattoo hygiene practices and the quality of advice given to tattooed people. Every tattoo artist in Europe can now obtain the document, decide to comply with it and self-declare their compliance. He can also request an independent body to be responsible for certifying that the criteria are actually respected. In both cases, each future tattooed person can now ask their tattooist if they respect the criteria of this document: the standard will help tattooists and tattooed people to communicate better.

#### **What does the standard say about tattoos?**

The NF EN 17169 standard provides tattoo artists with both hygiene requirements and recommendations for their exchanges with clients and public authorities. It also provides procedures to follow to guarantee optimal protection for the customer and anyone present in the work environment. The text addresses all aspects of the operation of a tattoo parlor: responsibilities of the owner or operator, health training, installation of premises and tattoo parts, waste management, cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of equipment and premises, etc.

Certain requirements of the standard are higher than the rules set to date in France. As examples, we can cite the sterility requirement for caps (containers for pigments or ink), the systematic signing of a consent form, or even the keeping of a procedures manual.

**Press contact:** to find out more, talk to an expert or receive the standard in the press service: Olivier Gibert – tel: +33 1 41 62 85 55 – [presse@afnor.org](mailto:presse@afnor.org)

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<sup>1</sup>Eleven countries participated directly in the project: Germany, England, Austria, Denmark, Spain, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and Slovakia.

## **ABOUT THE AFNOR GROUP**

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An international associative group, the AFNOR group designs and deploys solutions based on voluntary standards, these consensual documents developed by and for market players, in the service of economic development and innovation. As a provider of professional monitoring, training, benchmarking, certification and assessment solutions, the group operates in the competitive field in more than 100 countries. With 1,250 employees worldwide and a portfolio of 77,000 customers, the AFNOR group positions itself as a vector of trust for public actors and organizations in general. The AFNOR group is managed by Olivier Peyrat. [www.afnor.org](http://www.afnor.org)