

Stakeholder Position

of

Andreas Schmidt

vice chairman of D.O.T.

(German association of professional tattoo artists)





Aims of the organisation D.O.T.



Securing the quality standards in the tattoo scene by only accepting artists as members that meet the following requirements:

- studio and working procedures according to our hygiene standards only
- both, hygienic and artistic work to the highest standard

Communication and Information platform

- between tattoo scene and customers
- amongst tattoo artists

Development and implementation of hygiene standards for tattoo studios

(meanwhile adopted by AWMF and used by health authorities all over Germany)

General research

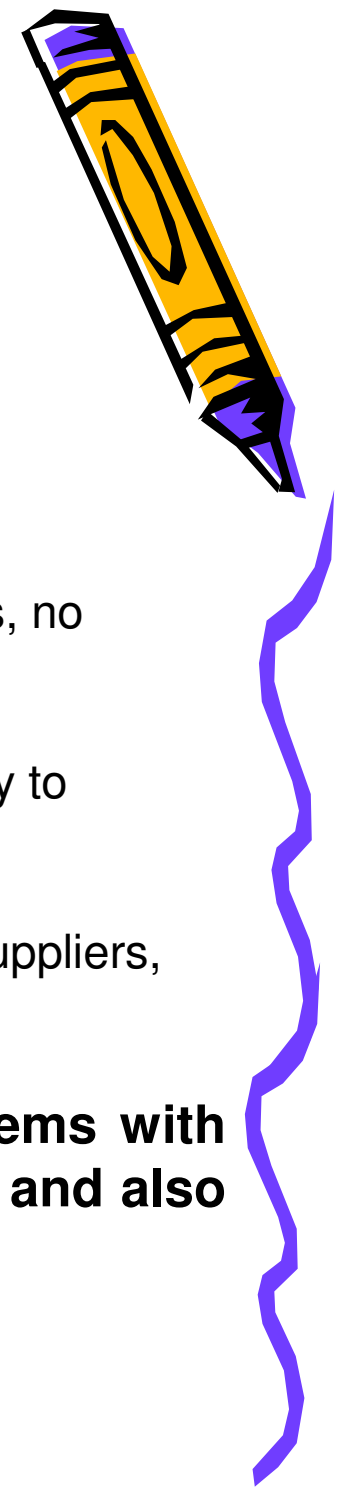
Support of authorities like BfR, EU commission etc.

Preserve the interests of tattoo artists, specifically meaning in this situation:

- contamination of customers by tattoo inks (dermal)
- contamination of artists by tattoo inks (inhalation of pigments while working)



Safety of tattoo colors at the moment



In our opinion tattoo colours are not really safe at the moment, because:

1. No generally valid test methods for pigments/colours
2. Missing definition of declaration of content in colours
3. Health authorities of all 16 german federal states have their own regulations, no nationwide rules for Germany, no European legislation
4. Tattoo artists buy colours only in good faith because they have no possibility to analyze the colours
5. No legal security in selling/using tattoo colours, neither for manufacturers/suppliers, nor for tattoo artists

Nevertheless we are confident that there are only a few problems with colours, otherwise we would hear of more customer complaints and also have many more reports in newspapers or magazines.



Methods to increase the safety of colours



Establishment of a working committee for tattoo colour safety with scientists, legislative authorities, manufacturers and users (artists/D.O.T.)

Establishment of a center for collection of informations/problems about colours (like Rapex, but only securely verified information)

Evaluation of standard methods for testing of colours (positive list)

Toxicological tests for ingredients of colours (as usual for food, cosmetics, pharma)

- by manufacturers of pigments and ingredients
- by tattoo ink manufacturers

Enforcement of the new prescriptions by legal authorities

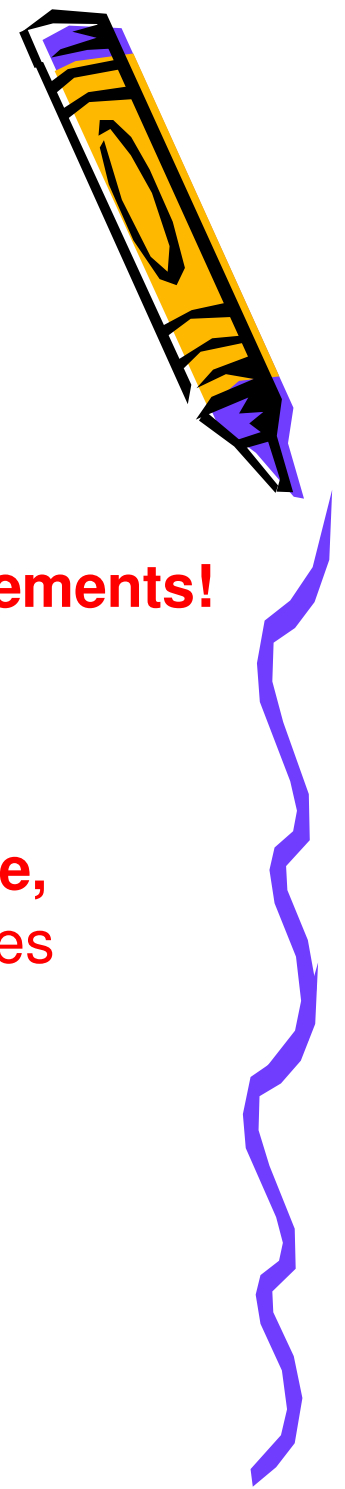
Introduction of an authorisation for buying/selling tattoo material/tattoo inks (ban of tattoo supplies through online auction houses like ebay)



New regulations MUST be practible and affordable!

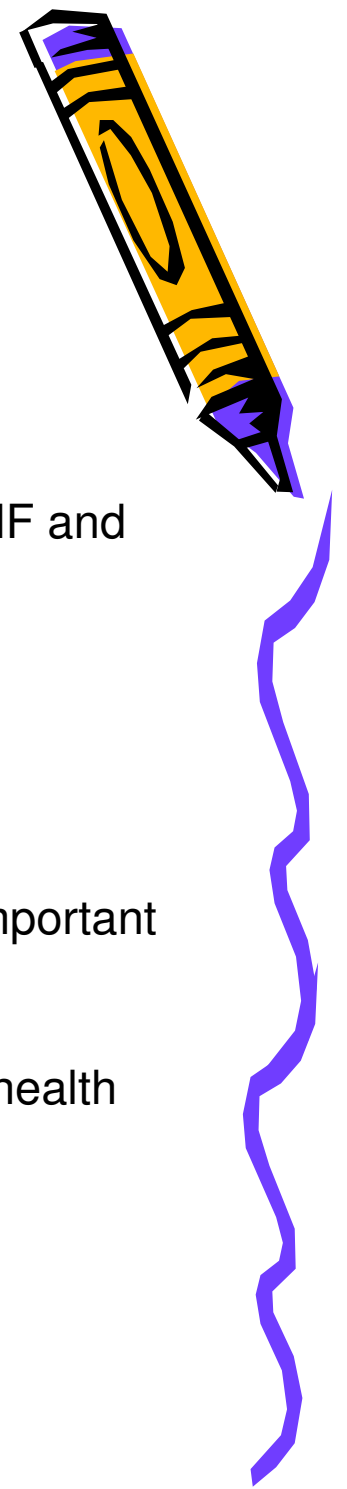
Tattoo inks MUST still be usable and meet OUR quality requirements!
(easy to put into skin, light fast, long lasting)

Regulations must be internationally (EU-wide) applicable,
otherwise Germany will suffer from competition disadvantages
against other EU countries.



What does the D.O.T. contribute to the situation?

1. D.O.T. developed the hygiene standards for Germany (rated also by the AWMF and used by many health offices all over Germany)
2. D.O.T. members are working with licensed tattoo inks only
3. D.O.T. can provide important knowledge:
 - of tattoo artists (for practical terms) and
 - of members of our own academic council (scientists covering all important aspects of tattoo business)
4. D.O.T. ensures communication between tattoo industry and legal authorities, health offices etc.



Members of our academic council

Prof. Dr. Burkhard Wille

Professor for Hygiene and Environmental Medicine, Hospital Hygiene.

Dr. Andreas Winkens

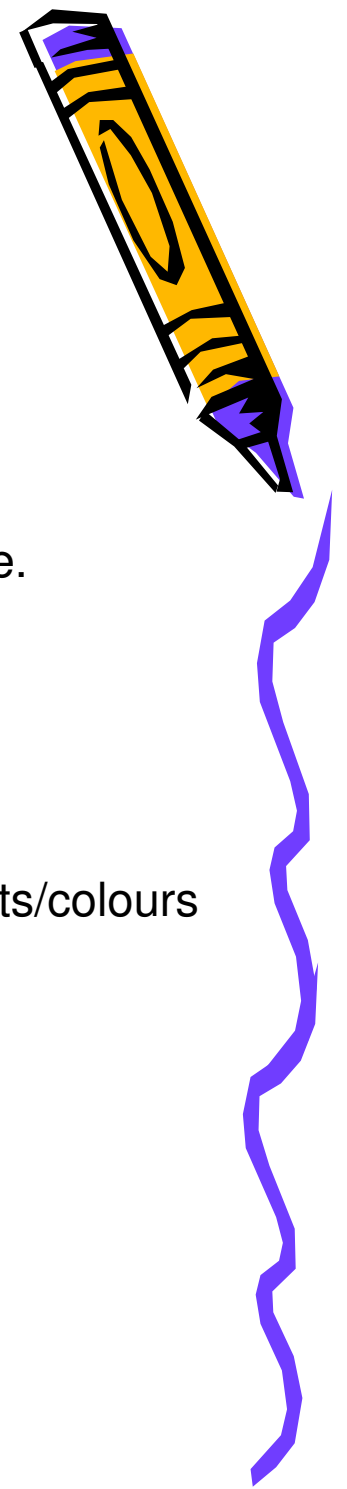
Environment Engineer, analysis for articles of daily needs.

Dr. Ing. Bernhard Küter

Works for Government Safety Organisations on diseases caused by pigments/colours

Prof. Dr. Stefan Hockertz

tpi consult GmbH, Toxicologist and Immunologist







Deutsche Organisierte Tätowierer e.V.

German association of professional tattoo artists

Andy Schmidt

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