



Tattooed with green and blue

Beauty has its price. Tattoos may have undesirable consequences for our health. A harmonised, EU-wide regulation on the ingredients in tattoo inks came into force in 2021. Under the European Chemicals Regulation (REACH), certain substances for tattoo inks can now be banned or restricted for use. Also pigments Blue 15:3 and Green 7 are affected by this. The industry is given a transitional period of 24 months to find safer alternatives for both pigments. A problem with both pigments is that the existing data on possible adverse health effects are incomplete. The BfR recommends improving the available data sets for both pigments. A ban alone is not sufficient since alternative substances may be even more poorly studied. This shows how important research, health risk assessment and exchanging information on the risks of tattoo inks are. In November 2021, the BfR will bring together experts from the fields of toxicology, legislation and manufacturing at the 2nd International Conference on Tattoo Safety. Furthermore, the BfR is currently working on a comprehensive strategy for the risk assessment of tattoo pigments.

More information:

www.bfr.bund.de/en > A-Z index: Tattoo