



Health
Canada

Healthy Environments
and Consumer Safety
Branch

Santé
Canada

Direction générale,
Santé environnementale et
sécurité des consommateurs

Your file: Votre référence

Our file: Notre référence

**Cosmetics Program
Consumer Product Safety Bureau
Product Safety Program
Health Canada**

July 2008

Attention: Cosmetic Industry Stakeholders

Subject: Tattoo Ink

This letter is a reminder that dyes used for tattoos or permanent make-up are considered to be cosmetic products subject to the requirements of the *Food and Drugs Act* and *Cosmetic Regulations*, which are administered by Health Canada. The definition of a cosmetic is “any substance or mixture of substances manufactured, sold, or represented for use in cleansing, improving or altering the complexion, skin, hair or teeth, and includes deodorants and perfumes”.

Dyes used for tattoos or permanent make-up are considered cosmetic products since they are applied to the skin for the purpose of decoration. All permanent skin dyes being sold in Canada must meet the requirements of the *Food and Drugs Act* and *Cosmetic Regulations*. This includes notifying Health Canada of the product, appropriate packaging and labelling, and ensuring that the products are safe to use.

Prior to purchasing the dye, ask your supplier (manufacturer or importer) if their products comply with the *Cosmetic Regulations* and ensure that they have notified Health Canada of the product. It is against the law to sell products in Canada which do not meet the requirements of the *Cosmetic Regulations*.

Information on the *Cosmetic Regulations*, how to notify Health Canada and other requirements for sale can be found at the following web site: www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cosmetics.

If you have questions, or require additional information, please contact your regional Product Safety Office. A list of Product Safety Offices is given below, or can be found on the above website, by clicking "Contact Us".

Vancouver, BC	604-666-5003	Bby_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca
Calgary, Alberta	403-292-4677	Alberta_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca
Edmonton, Alberta	780-495-2626	Alberta_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	306-975-4502	Sk_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca
Winnipeg, Manitoba	204-983-5490	Mb_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca
Hamilton, Ontario	905-572-2845	Tor_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca
Toronto, Ontario	416-973-4705	Tor_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca
Montreal, Quebec	514-283-5488	Quebec_Prod@hc-sc.gc.ca
Longueuil, Quebec	450-646-1353	Quebec_Prod@hc-sc.gc.ca
Quebec, Quebec	418-648-4327	Quebec_Prod@hc-sc.gc.ca
Moncton, New Brunswick	506-851-6638	Atlantic_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca
Fredericton, New Brunswick	506-452-2405	Atlantic_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca
Halifax, Nova Scotia	902-426-8300	Atlantic_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca
St. John's, Newfoundland	709-772-4050	Atlantic_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca