

Frequently Asked Questions: Tattooing Hygiene Rating Scheme



To be read alongside the “Rules of the Scheme”

1. Who supports the scheme?

The Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme (THRS) is a voluntary scheme and is supported by:

- The Tattoo and Piercing Industry Union and
- Chartered Institute of Environmental health.

2. Who delivers the scheme?

Local authorities.

3. What does the THRS cover?

It covers the following:

- Cleanliness and cleansing of equipment in specific premises;
- Record keeping;
- Cleanliness and personal hygiene of the operators;
- Training;
- Professionalism and
- Staff protection

4. If I own several premises, do I need to get each one inspected and rated?

Yes

5. Is the scheme adopted across the UK?

The scheme was developed recently in Wales. There are only a few areas in England that have currently adopted the scheme because it is so new.

6. Does it cost anything?

There is a cost for being a part of the scheme which are as follows:

Initial registration & First inspection - £100

Re-rating requesting & Revisit - £50

Annual Rating inspection - £100

7. What do I get in return?

- Practitioners will be able to seek advice from Swindon Borough Council on how to improve their practices and help to drive up standards within the trade;
- High rated practitioners will have been able to demonstrate adoption of best practice in the industry including infection prevention and control;
- Reduction in the risk of incidents of infection and transmission of infectious disease from tattooing procedures;
- Participants in the scheme will receive a rating certificate and window sticker to help to promote their good practice. Both will remain the property of Wilshire Council;
- Promotion of the use of and improvement to the reputation of registered, legitimate, tattooists that has been damaged by “scratchers”;

- Through published ratings the public will be able to make an informed choice about the business they select for a tattoo and can be reassured that the practitioner takes cleanliness and infection control seriously as part of their everyday practice;
- The general public will be made aware that you have entered into a voluntary agreement with Swindon Borough Council that strives to protect both the public and practitioners.

8. Can the rating be reviewed if improvements have been made?

A rating will not be reviewed for at least 3 months and will be automatically reviewed each year.

9. What if I don't agree with the rating?

An appeals process will be made available and a different person will review your premises and give you a verdict on the rating. (Please refer to the "Rules of the Scheme" for more details.

10. I would like to apply to belong to the scheme. What do I do next?

Please complete the attached questionnaire together with a copy of your completed self assessment audit (downloadable from page 64 of the toolkit) and send to the Licensing Authority at:

Licensing
Swindon Borough Council
Wat Tyler West 5th Floor
Beckhampton Street
Swindon
SN1 2JH

Or alternatively by email to licensing@swindon.gov.uk