



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTRY FOR HEALTH

# **CONSULTATION DOCUMENT TATTOOING COURSES REQUIREMENTS**

## CONSULTATION PROCESS

**Start date:** 14th November 2017

**Closing date:** 14th December 2017

**Title** of the public consultation: Tattoo courses- requirements

**Ministry:** Ministry for Health

**Entity:** Healthcare Standards Directorate

### 1. Background

Tattooing has become an increasingly popular practice thus it is pertinent to ensure safe practices for the tattooing industry in Malta. The aim of this document is for tattoo artists to earn a Tattooing certificate based on the completion of a structured training program which measures the ability to understand and follow established health and safety guidelines. This program is also intended to safe guard the practicing tattooist and ensures client safety.

The scope of regulating Tattoo Courses is to ensure that all courses contain the basic necessary knowledge and skills needed to ensure a safe procedure in tattooing and in infection control of blood-borne pathogens.

### 2. The general public is cordially request to submit any suggestions/recommendations on the proposed course requirements through the following channels:

- **E-mail:** [healthstandards-consultations@gov.mt](mailto:healthstandards-consultations@gov.mt)
- **Post:** Health Care Standards Directorate  
St Luke's Hospital  
OPD (Level 1), St. Luke's Square  
Pieta' - Malta  
PTA 1010

**Contact Person:** Ms Patricia Galea Director Healthcare Standards email [patricia.galea@gov.mt](mailto:patricia.galea@gov.mt)

Tel no 25953326

## TATTOOING COURSES - REQUIREMENTS

### Scope

Tattooing has become an increasingly popular practice thus it is pertinent to ensure safe practices for the tattooing industry in Malta. The aim of this document is for tattoo artists to earn a Tattooing certificate based on the completion of a structured training program which measures the ability to understand and follow established health and safety guidelines. This program is also intended to safe guard the practicing tattooist and ensures client safety.

The scope of regulating Tattoo Courses is to ensure that all courses contain the basic necessary knowledge and skills needed to ensure a safe procedure in tattooing and in infection control of blood-borne pathogens. This is a pre - requisite for a license to practice as a tattooist.

### Contents of course

The modules listed below have to be an integrated part in the course curriculum. Other topics can be included as the tattooists may deem necessary. The course should consist of at least 45 hours of teaching / training which includes practical sessions of actual tattooing on practice skin (artificial), using inks, shading inks and pigments, transferring an image from paper to skin and skin preparation.

Each module must have at least 15 hours of teaching/training. Additionally the trainee must have a basic understanding of the current regulations regarding Tattooing in Malta.

	Score 0 - 100
<b>MODULES 1</b>	
1. Using tattooing needles /Needles expiry dates/CE marking	
2. Using inks, shading inks and pigments	
3. Transferring an image from paper to skin	
4. Information regarding solutions, creams, and cleaning supplies used before, during and after tattooing	
5. Actual tattooing on practice skin (artificial)	

<b>MODULE 2 :</b>	
1. Client consultation/ client consent forms	
2. Skin preparation prior to tattooing i.e. hair removal, cleaning and skin preparation, application of stencil fluid etc..	
3. Choosing and preparing the design	
4. Colours : blending, shading, cover up	
<b>MODULE 3 (module must be provided by a healthcare professional)</b>	
1. Sterilization and maintenance of equipment used in tattooing/record keeping	
2. Maintaining a clean and healthy environment to minimize the risk of infection	
3. Information on blood-borne diseases and skin infections together with risks during/following tattooing procedures	
4. Transmission of blood borne infections/ Prevention of disease transmission	
5. Use of aseptic technique and after care/ use of proper gloves	
6. Interpretation of alert notifications published by the Health Care Standards Directorate regarding tattoo inks and equipment	
<b>STARTING YOUR BUSINESS</b>	
Starting a tattooing practice /requirements/ licensing /third country nationals - requirements	

1. The course certificate should be in the English language. Following the successful completion of the course, a transcript has to be provided for every trainee. Additionally at least five false skin tattoos have to be provided and each must be signed by the student attending for the course.
2. When a licensed tattooist intends to offer courses for the training of individuals to practice as a tattooist, he/ she shall apply to the Superintendent of Public Health. No such training is to be carried out prior approval.
3. A request needs to include the following information :
  - a. Course curriculum including the number of hours for each module; a copy of any handouts which are to be provided during the course; the dates of the course and all other relevant information regarding the course together with the method of assessment used.

- b. Tattooists providing training must have at least five years working experience in a licensed tattoo parlour.
- c. All individuals attending for a tattooing course have to be at least 18 years of age.
- d. Applications must be sent to:

The Director  
Healthcare Standards Directorate  
Regulation Department  
St Luke's Hospital OPD level 1  
St Luke's square  
Gwardamangia

Or by e-mail to: [healthstandards.sph@gov.mt](mailto:healthstandards.sph@gov.mt)

- 4. Following the successful completion of a tattooing course, the trainer must forward the following information to the Superintendent of Public Health :
  - a. Details of the trainee including age, ID no, residence address;
  - b. Address
  - c. Dates and time of training sessions;
  - d. Competences covered during course;
  - e. Topics addressed during the course;
  - f. Copy of Certificate issued to the individual following completion of the tattooing course, together with a transcript of the achieved level of competence in both tattooing practices and safe infection control practices.
- 5. The Superintendent of Public Health reserves the right to reject any training course certification if it is believed that the training course did not reach the required level.
- 6. The Superintendent of Public Health or any authorized officer reserves the right to attend to any training sessions held by the trainer.

## **Certification**

Once the course has been completed by the individual and all the above requirements are met, the individual will be asked to sit for a short multiple choice test provided by the HealthCare Standards Directorate addressing infection control and blood-borne diseases. A 70% pass mark has to be achieved during such test which can be an oral or a written assessment and can be delivered in Maltese or English. On the successful completion of the multiple choice test a certificate may be issued by the trainer and the individual can apply for a license.

When a person who is in possession of a foreign recognized tattooing certificate, intends to work in Malta or Gozo, a license can only be issued after verification of the certification and after the individual sits for the same multiple choice test regarding infection control and blood-borne diseases issued for local applicants. This test does not apply for those tattooists participating in the annual tattoo convention.

No training on live models is to be carried out before a trainee has completed his/her training and is certified to be a competent Tattooist.