

The Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme (THRS)

Rules of the Scheme

1. All premises offering tattooing within a council's administrative area shall be eligible to apply to participate in the THRS. Application to join the scheme constitutes acceptance of the Rules of the Scheme.
2. Irrespective of any other services offered by the premises the THRS shall apply to the tattooing procedure only.
3. Tattooing premises will be rated by the inspecting officer in accordance with the rating scheme following a programmed or initial inspection carried out under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (hereinafter called 'the Act').
4. Where, in consequence of conditions found at the time of the initial inspection the inspecting officer requires remedial works or action to be taken at the request of the operator the rating may be deferred to allow the works or action to be undertaken and the premises shall be rated upon the completion of the works.
5. Upon the THRS rating being awarded the council shall give the operator of the premises a THRS Certificate indicating the date of the rating inspection and the rating awarded, and a THRS self-clinging window sticker indicating the rating awarded. The operator of the premises may display the Certificate within the premises to which it relates and may display the window sticker in a prominent position on a window, door or other entry to the premises to which it relates where it will be readily seen by potential purchasers.
6. The THRS Certificate and THRS window sticker remain the property of the awarding local authority and must be returned by the premises operator to the local authority on demand.
7. A list of all premises having a rating awarded under the THRS will be maintained on the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Cymru Wales Region web site www.cieh-cymruwales.org
8. Local authorities may display rating of tattoo premises within their own areas on their own web site and may, at their discretion, provide a link to the CIEH Cymru Wales web site from their own web sites.
9. Owners of premises with a THRS may refer to or display their current rating on advertising material and websites should they wish to do so.
10. Where an operator of premises displays a THRS certificate or sticker that is no longer valid through its being superseded, or claims in any advertising material display or manner to be the holder of a THRS that is incorrect or makes any claim with regard to the scheme that is misleading in any material particular he shall be liable to prosecution under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.
11. Operators of premises holding current THRS rating may apply to be re-rated, but may not do so until 3 months after the most recent inspection under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 inspection and THRS rating visit has elapsed.
12. Owners of premises may ask the local authority to re-rate their premises where they are of the view that the rating currently awarded to the premises no longer reflects the conditions existing there. A local authority may not re-rate a premises within 3 months of a rating visit carried out contemporaneously with a programmed (or initial) inspection carried out under the Act and may at its discretion decline to re-rate a premises where the request to re-rate is received within 2 months of a programmed inspection under the Act being due.

13. Where an operator of premises is aggrieved by the THRS Rating awarded to his premises he may appeal to the local authority making the award. The grounds under which an appeal may be made are
 - a. That the rating allocated to the premises does not properly reflect conditions existing within it at the time of the rating visit, OR
 - b. that the rating criteria were incorrectly applied.

14. The appeal must be made in writing within 28 days of the notification of the THRS rating and must state the grounds upon which the appeal is founded. The appeal shall be determined in accordance with the local authority appeal mechanism which will be communicated to the owner at the same time as the THRS Rating is communicated, and the determination shall be binding on both parties.