



# Banned pigments found in tattoo inks

Slide by Neil Goalby. Available from [rsc.li/3AQe2jl](https://rsc.li/3AQe2jl)

In 2022, European regulators banned several blue and green tattoo inks over concerns that they cause cancer or genetic mutations.

Scientists recently used instrumental methods to analyse 10 green and blue tattoo inks sold in Europe, all claiming to meet EU regulations. Only one ink met the standards. Some contained banned inks like Green 7 and Blue 15. Nine contained material not listed on their labels.

The scientists have urged the industry to develop improved and standardised manufacturing protocols.



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*Tattoo ink safety under fire as researchers uncover hidden dangers*

## Questions

1. Why did the regulations ban certain tattoo inks?
2. Give two advantages of using instrumental methods to detect chemicals.
3. Suggest why the scientists did not use chromatography to investigate the inks.