

TATTOO & PIERCING

HYGIENE RATING SCHEME

Rules of the scheme

1. All businesses offering tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring and cosmetic piercing within the Dudley Borough are eligible to participate in the scheme. By completing the application form, you are accepting the rules of the scheme.
2. The business operator will need to re-apply every 12 months for continued involvement in the scheme.
3. Where a business offers other services, the scheme only applies to tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring and cosmetic piercing.
4. The business will be rated by the inspecting officer in accordance with the rating scheme specified by Dudley Council following an inspection carried out under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
5. Once the rating has been awarded, Dudley Council will provide the business with a certificate and window sticker indicating the rating awarded. Both the certificate and window sticker may be put on display at the premises to which the rating relates.
6. The certificate and sticker will remain the property of Dudley Council and must be returned by the business operator to the Council when involvement in the rating scheme ceases or otherwise on written demand by the Council.
7. The business may withdraw from the scheme at any time but must inform Dudley Council and remove the certificate and sticker from display and return them with immediate effect.
8. Dudley Council may display the business rating on their website.
9. Businesses may refer to their current rating on any promotional or advertising material and/or website.
10. If a business operator displays a certificate or window sticker that is no longer valid or claims in any advertising material or manner or makes a claim with regards to the scheme which is misleading or untrue, they shall be liable to prosecution under Consumer Protection legislation.

11. Business operators who have been awarded a rating may apply to be re-rated, but only after 3 months from the most recent inspection. They may also ask for the business to be re-rated when they believe that the current rating no longer reflects the conditions at the premises.
12. There is a £100 fee for re-rating, which is payable when an application is made. This fee covers the visit and re-issuing of the new certificate and sticker.
13. Dudley Council may not re-rate the business within 3 months following an inspection or within 2 months of a programmed visit under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
14. Where the business operator is aggrieved by the rating awarded, there is a right to appeal. The grounds for an appeal would be
 - The rating awarded does not properly reflect conditions at the premises at the time of the visit, or
 - The rating criteria has been incorrectly applied.
15. The appeal must be made in writing within 28 days of the notification of the rating and must state the grounds of the appeal. The appeal shall be determined in accordance with Dudley Councils appeal mechanism (see below). The results of the appeal shall be binding on both parties.
16. Dudley Council reserves the right to review the rules of the scheme at any time. Should any changes occur, Council will write to you and inform you of the changes.

Appeal Mechanism

Appeals must be made in writing within 28 days of the notification of the rating and the grounds for appeal must be stated. Appeals must go to Mr Tim Glews, Public Protection Manager (Environmental Safety & Health), Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, 3-5 St James Road, Dudley, DY1 1HY. The decision of the appeal is binding on both parties. There is no mechanism for further appeal.

Withdrawal from the scheme

Where a business operator wishes to withdraw from the scheme, they must write to the Council advising them of this. They will need to remove the certificate and sticker from display and return them with immediate effect to Dudley Council and the Council will remove their details from the database and website.

Scoring

The score will be calculated using the audit tool contained within the toolkit. The scores will be worked out as a percentage and will be rated as per the following table.

Percentage Score	Rating	Description
0-59	1	Major Improvement Required
60-69	2	Improvement Required
70-79	3	Generally Satisfactory
80-89	4	Good
90+	5	Excellent