



VECCO e.V.

Association for the Preservation of Use and Utilization of Chromium Trioxide
and Other Chromium-VI Compounds in Surface Technology

Information about „chromium-VI“ Cr(VI)

The speculations on „chromium VI“ have raised a number of questions. Based on this current debate we would like to inform our customers about the current status.

The discussions are based on the European Chemicals Regulation REACH:

Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals

The main objective of the REACH regulation is to increase pan-European safety for the population, employees and the environment.

Responsible for implementation and compliance is:

ECHA - European Chemicals Agency, Helsinki.

Supported by the national authorities, in Germany:

BAuA - Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Dortmund

Situation Chromium-VI Compounds

1. NO PROHIBITION has been imposed on the use of chromium-VI compounds.
2. However, the continued use of chromium-VI compounds requires authorisation
3. It is not intended to ban these technologies, which have existed for decades and have been reliably controlled:
 - In the electroplating process, chrome is deposited as a metal and lies on the carrier material (e.g. metal, plastic) as an end surface in neutral form, chromium-0, and is therefore non-toxic.
 - The properties of this chromium layer required by the consumers are its very good corrosion resistance, wear and abrasion resistance, as well as the color stability, all of which are currently not fully achieved by alternatives.
 - At present, there are no process-reliable and suitable alternatives.
4. The future supply of the chrome coatings that are already known and proven is ensured



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To further secure the use of chrome coatings, an association was founded in May 2012 by users and electroplating companies:

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The association's aim is to prove that its members have long been in a position to properly and professionally deal with the substance chromium-VI in its compounds and to harm neither their employees nor the environment. This is already guaranteed by existing applicable regulations and laws.

The consortium and its members will work with ECHA to ensure that chromium-VI compounds can also be used in the future.

We ask our customers to place their trust in us that we can safely handle chromium-VI and its compounds, and continue to use them for your benefit.

Please inform yourself about the current developments on the VECCO website www.vecco.de and www.eupoc.de respectively.