

Good Practice Sheet for Uses of Chromates

D6 Cleaning of spills or released¹

This sheet will help employers to comply with the requirements of EU Directive 2004/37 and the terms of the REACH authorizations for uses of chromates. Working with chromates may cause cancer. This sheet describes good practice to reduce exposure. It covers the points that should be followed to reduce exposure. It is important to follow all the points, or use equally effective measures. This document should be made available to all persons who may be exposed to chromates in the workplace so that they make the best use of the control measures available.

The Process

This GPS covers activities relating to incidental or accidental release of chromates during formulation, surface treatment or chromium plating.

Equipment used during handling of and processing with chromates may need to be cleaned or decontaminated following use.

Release of chromates is unlikely when equipment is used as specified and adequate management systems are in place. However, the potential for releases or spills cannot be completely discounted.

Equipment Design and Access

Chromates are very hazardous to human health and the environment. Cleaning or decontamination of equipment must be carried out taking care to reduce to as low as reasonably practicable worker exposure or release to the environment.

- ✓ Masking materials may be used to protect equipment during operations such as spraying or maintenance where there is increased potential for release. The masking material is periodically removed and replaced.
- ✓ A HEPA vacuum cleaner or wet cleaning should be used to recover an accidental release of solid chromate. Dry sweeping should not be used.
- ✓ An accidental release of liquid chromates should be completely contained and captured using appropriate absorbent material. Residual traces of material may be removed from the area using solvent or water impregnated rags. Please also refer to supplier SDS.
- ✓ Decontaminate the area after cleaning the spill or release with a reducing agent (e.g. ascorbic acid).
- ✓ Place contaminated material in a designated, labelled waste container. Chromates should be moved in containers from spill area, and stored according to instructions within the supplier's SDS. Waste shall be disposed according to relevant waste legislation (GPS D8).

¹ Chromates may include the following substances: Chromium Trioxide (S1), Dichromium tris(chromate) (S2), Potassium dichromate (S3), Sodium dichromate (S4), Strontium chromate (S6), Pentazinc chromate octahydroxide (S7), and Potassium hydroxyoctaoxidizincatedichromate (S8).

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Chromates Emissions

Residual chromate emission is possible depending on the volume, concentration, physical form of the chromate and physical location.

Risk Management Measures – Workers

- Prior Implement appropriate measures (e.g. provision of local cleaning facilities and hazardous waste management bins) to prevent cross-contamination from equipment and PPE to adjacent areas.
- Restrict access to permitted workers only by appropriate measures.

Risk Management Measures - Environment

- Wastewater is not expected to occur during this activity.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

To minimize potential exposure to chromates, all persons cleaning spills or releases of chromates must wear:

- protective eye goggles
- protective gloves
- safety clothing / footwear
- in case of handling solid chromates P3 filter is required.

GPS E1 and your supplier's extended SDS provide relevant information on PPE.

Training and Supervision

All persons performing cleaning activities must be instructed about the risks of working with chromates, the safe way of handling chromates and use of PPE and other control equipment. Workers must be properly trained and equipped to carry out their duties, and to safely cease such duties as needed.

Monitoring

Due to the requirement for rapid response, worker monitoring may not be feasible.

Other Relevant Good Practice Sheets

Other GPS are also likely to be applicable. A full list can be accessed [Link](#).

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