

Good Practice Sheet for Uses of Chromates

D8 Solid waste management¹

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 handling of solid waste contaminated with chromates. Solid waste containing residual chromates may result from normal operations, cleaning activities, decontamination activities and measures to prevent contamination, such as use of PPE.

Solid waste contaminated with chromates must be managed and disposed according to relevant waste management regulations.

Equipment Design and Access

- ✓ Solid process waste (empty bags, containers, filters, waste from cleaning activities) must be transferred to and stored in closed containers. These containers are collected by licensed waste management companies for treatment, incineration and disposal of incineration residues to contaminated landfill.
- ✓ Open empty bags are placed in a large bag or other hazardous waste container. A bag-press may be used to compact the bags within the container.
- ✓ Containers will be cleaned, re-used if possible, or alternatively sealed, marked as hazardous waste and sent for disposal by certified disposal companies.

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

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Chromates Emissions

Residual chromates on solid waste could be released as dust during handling.

Risk Management Measures - Workers

- Implement appropriate measures (e.g. provision of local cleaning facilities and hazardous waste management bins) to prevent cross-contamination between equipment and PPE to adjacent areas.

Risk Management Measures - Environment

- Solid waste containing hexavalent chromium should be segregated and stored in closed containers. These containers must be appropriately labelled and collected by licensed waste management companies for treatment. Treatment involves incineration and disposal of incineration residues to contaminated landfill.
- Waste containers should be marked as hazardous waste to prevent any contamination during disposal by certified disposal companies.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

To minimize potential exposure to chromates, all persons handling solid waste must wear:

- protective eye goggles
- protective gloves
- safety clothing / footwear.

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

Training and Supervision

All persons handling solid waste containing hexavalent chromium must be instructed about the risks of working with chromates, the safe way of handling chromates and use of PPE and other equipment. Workers must be properly trained and equipped to carry out their duties, and to safely cease such duties as needed. Adequate supervision must be available at all times.

Monitoring

It is expected that disposal of contaminated waste to take place at the time of the chromate use activity or shortly after (during clean-up). Any monitoring of the chromate use should therefore also capture disposal.

Other Relevant Good Practice Sheets

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

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