

Press Release CTACSub2

February 21, 2023

Submission of Review Report to ECHA for Continuation of the REACH Authorization of Certain Uses of Chromium Trioxide

CTACSub2, a subgroup consisting of five member companies of the CTACSub Consortium, is pleased to announce that they have prepared¹ over the last two years and submitted today to ECHA their REACH Review Report ('RR') for the continuation of certain Uses of chromium trioxide, originally authorized² by European Commission Decision C(2020) 8797 on December 18, 2020.³

These five companies are: Chemservice GmbH (in its legal capacity as Only Representative of Brother CISA (Pty) Ltd), CROMITAL S.P.A. (in its legal capacity as Only Representiave of Soda Sanayii A.S); Elementis Minerals B.V.⁴ (in its legal capacity as Only Representative of Elementis Chromium Inc); MacDermid Enthone GmbH; and Prospere Chemical Logistic OÜ (as Only Representative of Aktyubinsk Chromium Chemicals plant, Kazakhstan).

Two of the four⁵ 2020 originally authorized Uses have been subdivided into five Uses each, namely the hardchrome plating Uses and the aeronautical/aerospace Uses. For the hardchrome plating Uses (Uses 2 – 6), the sub-division is per end industry sector or design of parts plated. For the aeronautical and aerospace Uses (Uses 7 – 11), the division is per surface treatment technology. For all hardchrome plating uses (Uses 2 – 6) CTACSub2 requests a new review period of 12 years. For miscellaneous surface treatment (Use 12), 7 years are requested. For the aeronautical and aerospace Uses, review periods of between 6.5 and 10.5 years are requested, depending on the individual Use category.

The authorisation holders carefully considered the remarks of RAC/SEAC and the European Commission in relation to the original authorization. Therefore, CTACSub2 has been structured so that there is full transparency on the individual covered downstream user ('DU') companies and their Uses, thereby eliminating any perceived uncertainty on scope and Use. All DU legal entities (LE) covered by the RR had to sign up and accept the obligation to provide complete data sets for all required dossier parts. If multiple sites exist per LE, this had to be indicated and site-specific data had to be delivered. Additionally, submission of monitoring data (worker exposure and environmental emission data, if applicable) for all operational sites was a pre-requisite to comply with the inclusion criteria. LEs who did not comply with the obligation to provide complete data sets have been excluded and are not covered by the RR.

Moreover, as a novelty for a so-called upstream authorization, the RR includes Use and LE-specific company sheets that describe key information on analysis of alternatives, substitution plan, socio economic impacts and chemical safety for each LE (incl. sites). To guarantee data validity and

¹ The consultancy in charge of preparation of the RR is Ramboll Deutschland GmbH. Management of CTACSub2 is organized by the law firm Jones Day, Brussels office.

² CTACSub2 does not cover 'functional chrome plating with decorative character', the application for which is still pending with the European Commission.

³ See Q&A CTACSub

⁴ Soon to be transferred to TSG Deutschland GmbH.

⁵ Original Use 6 authorized (electrolytic tin plating) was omitted from the RR for lack of interest.

correctness, the LEs covered had to sign their company sheets. All these LEs including sites are listed by their name in the public version of the RR.

A total of 300 companies are covered by the RR, several with multiple Uses (Use 1: 20 companies, Use 2: 105; Use 3: 64, Use 4: 147; Use 5: 106; Use 6: 96; Use 7: 14; Use 8: 28; Use 9: 17; Use 10: 4; Use 11: 19; Use 112: 31).

Ursula Schliessner, consortium manager of the CTACSub2 group commented *“An enormous amount of work has been completed by CTACSub2 in the past two years, ensuring utmost granularity and transparency on chromium trioxide use of each individual company and site covered by this RR. Had these 300 companies all submitted their own application of authorization or RR, ECHA would experience substantial overload. We trust that ECHA and the European Commission will recognize the efforts made, process this RR expeditiously and propose continuation of the uses covered.”*