

WORKING SAFELY WITH HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM

Hexavalent chromium is added to varnishes, paints and primers to produce a longer-lasting, more resilient finish and to prevent rust from forming on the coated surface. Many window frames, fences, bridges, installations, ships and road vehicles are treated with paints that contain hexavalent chromium. When processing or performing maintenance on surfaces treated with coatings that contain hexavalent chromium, the substance can be released in the form of smoke, vapour and/or steam. This can be

damaging to your health. Hexavalent chromium can enter the body in three ways: through ingestion (stomach), respiration (lungs) or via the skin. To prevent this from happening, it is essential to perform tests on the materials you are working with and to implement additional safety measures accordingly. SGS can help with all your hexavalent chromium questions and challenges. With our unique testing method, our full service portfolio and our global network, we can provide quick and efficient assistance.

1

I WANT TO CLEAN, SAND DOWN OR PROCESS A COATED OR PAINTED MATERIAL. HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF THE COATING CONTAINS HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM?

Our on-site scan and rapid testing process will quickly tell you whether hexavalent chromium is present in the paint layers. To obtain specific information on the composition of the coating, we can perform an additional analysis in our laboratory.



2

IF MY MATERIAL DOES CONTAIN HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM, HOW DO I GET RID OF IT SAFELY?

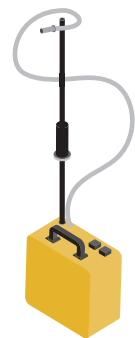
Depending on what you want to do with the material, we can put together a risk assessment and an action plan for you. In many cases, we advise our clients to employ the services of a specialist company, who can ensure that hexavalent chromium is removed in a safe and efficient way.



3

HOW DO I KEEP TRACK OF THE SITUATION DURING THE WORK?

During the renovation or processing work, we test the air in the workspace to provide a constant flow of data on hexavalent chromium emissions. You can use this data when planning future work; for example, to adjust your working method if the emissions turn out to be lower than anticipated. This approach helps you to ensure the safety of your employees, protect the environment, and keep your costs under control.



BEFORE

DURING

AFTER

4

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN THE LOCATION IS SAFE TO ACCESS AGAIN AFTER THE RENOVATION OR PROCESSING WORK?

We conduct a careful final check to determine when the site is safe for you to access and to confirm that it presents no health and safety or environmental risk.



5

HOW DO I DISPOSE OF MATERIALS THAT CONTAIN HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM?

If you have employed the services of a specialist company, they will dispose of the material for you. If you have carried out the processing work yourself, you will need to dispose of the material containing hexavalent chromium via a separate waste stream. We can provide advice on this stage of the process.



6

AFTER PROCESSING, WE STILL HAVE A NUMBER OF MATERIALS ON SITE THAT CONTAIN HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM. WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THESE?

We can work with you to compile a management plan, which sets out the conditions under which any materials containing hexavalent chromium may remain on site. This plan will ensure that your site remains safe for people living and working on or around it.



ADVICE AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

We can provide assistance throughout your project: from policy and protocols to tendering and communication.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please get in touch with one of our advisers.
t +31 (0)88 214 66 00
e info@sgssearch.nl
www.sgssearch.com

SGS