

Dear members,

some of our members have been asked by their customers/end customers about the current status of the authorisation and/or restriction of chromium VI. We can offer you a report on the state of affairs in the EU bodies, but please note that all the knowledge we have gained to date and the conclusions we have drawn from it can only be given in the "subjunctive".

The application for authorisation that we ( HAPOC ) submitted on time in spring 2016 was rejected by the ECHA recommended to the EU Commission for authorisation. This application has not yet been decided and the use of chromium VI is possible until the final decision is made.

After the application of a consortium (CTAC) was approved by the EU Commission, the EU Parliament voted that this authorisation was not justified. The Parliament referred this authorisation to the European Court of Justice, which ruled that the authorisation was not legally valid.

The ECJ ordered the Commission to submit a new proposal by April 2024. The Commission has allowed this deadline to expire and the companies that have notified themselves in response to this application may continue to use the substance in accordance with Article 56(1)(d) of the REACH Regulation until a decision is made on the application. Any defined ancillary conditions may also be cancelled. ECHA's recommendation on this application is not expected until the end of 2024 at the earliest.

Due to these developments and the very large number of authorisation applications that the system can no longer handle, the Commission has instructed ECHA to submit a proposal to remove the authorisation requirement from Agenda XIV and instead introduce a restriction in accordance with Agenda XVII of the REACH Regulation. To this end, ECHA organised a "Call for Evidence" in Helsinki in January/February 2024. We informed our members about this in a webinar and asked them to participate.

ECHA is satisfied with the first round, but has now earmarked further chromium VI compounds for restriction and thus there is another "Call for Evidence", which will be carried out from 5 June to 15 August 2024.

**The questionnaire is aimed exclusively at providers of alternative technologies or companies that have already successfully substituted. Reports on failed substitution attempts are not included, nor is an instrument to verify these statements.**

The aim of this measure is to obtain as broad a picture as possible of the applications of Cr VI in EUROPA, but we believe that another important component is missing. The opinions of end users, such as the major OEMs, and their **assessment of the range of applications of chromium and the possibilities of alternatives to meet the demands placed on the products.**

If the ECHA and the EU Commission agree to a change from authorisation to restriction, we believe that this will mean that those companies will **not be restricted** in their use that comply with occupational safety and environmental protection within the specified framework and whose product requirements cannot be fully met by alternatives or the economic framework conditions do not allow substitution.



Management Board  
VECCO e.V.