



September 20, 2006

Directives for Plating Change

The Commission of the European Communities has classified hexavalent chromium, or chromium VI, as an environmentally hazardous substance. Directives by the European Union to reduce hexavalent chromium from use, affects products made in the U.S.A that are exported to Europe. Many North American OEMs are adopting these EU directives for their equipment to be compliant with these directives and global specifications. OSHA has adopted new standards to reduce levels of airborne chromium VI in workplace conditions. Tompkins is committed to continuous improvement and making the necessary changes to satisfy the needs of our customers and the requirements of these specifications. Tompkins will be changing the plating of its metal parts to be compliant with these directives. Our steel fittings and couplings with current dichromate zinc plating that is "yellow or gold" in appearance is compliant with OSHA 1910.1026 (a) (4) for airborne exposure when installed on equipment for expected conditions of use. However, this plating is not compliant with the EU directives*.

Plating change

Tompkins will be changing its corrosion resistant finish for metal parts to a plating that is free of chromium VI. This plating will:

- Be "silver" in appearance.
- Not increasing price of our products.
- Not require change in assembly procedure or torque value.
- Enable compliance for RoHS*, WEEE*, ELV*, and REACH*.
- Have superior corrosion protection over chromium VI.

Superior corrosion resistance

Trivalent chromate plating with additional topcoats provides superior corrosion resistance to our current hexavalent chromium process.

- Current trivalent process provides up to 96h salt spray test in accordance with ASTM B117.
- We anticipate trivalent process to be 120h per ASTM B117 by 2007.

Implementation

Tompkins will begin converting the plating on all its steel fittings and couplings to the trivalent chromate plating in the last quarter of 2006.

- By January of 2007, all parts shipped from our manufacturing facilities will have trivalent chromate plating.
- Products with the current plating will continue to ship from our stocking locations until inventories are depleted.

Tompkins Industries, Inc.

*RoHS Restrictions of Hazardous Substances Directive (Effective July 2006 EU)

*WEEE the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (Effective 2005 by EU)

*ELV the End of Live Vehicle Directive (Effective July 2007 by EU)

*REACH Registration Evaluation and Authorization of Chemical Directive (In Preparation by EU)

1651 E Kansas City Rd • Olathe, KS 66061
800.255.1008 • Fax 800.959.3333