



September 20th, 2006

Dear Valued Tompkins Customer,

The European Union has begun restricting or prohibiting through several directives the use of certain substances to be used in components of electronic, automotive, and off-road equipment. US auto manufacturers and exporters of off-road equipment to Europe are following these same directives so that their products will be compliant with these directives. To provide compliant parts for these customers, Tompkins will be changing the plating to its fittings to be compliant with these directives. The substance of concern is hexavalent chrome used in our current zinc plating.

This letter is to inform you that Tompkins will begin to phase in trivalent chromate plating in the fall of 2006. This plating will enable compliance with these directives. The trivalent chromate plating is easily distinguished with a "silver" appearance. Our current hexavalent chrome is "gold or yellow" in appearance. There will be no increase in price for trivalent chromate plating, and it will not require any change in assembly procedures or torque values. There will be improved corrosion resistance.

Tompkins has already begun conversion of our fittings to the "silver" trivalent chrome. By January 2007, all parts shipped from our manufacturing facilities will have trivalent chromate plating. Products with hexavalent chrome will continue to ship from our stocking locations until inventories are depleted.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your account representative or our technical support at any time.

Sincerely,

Tompkins Industries, Inc.

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