



Current Status of Chromium Trioxide Use in Gravure Cylinder Manufacturing in Europe

Until a decision is made by the European Commission regarding the CTAC application, all users of chromium trioxide may continue to use this substance under the known CTAC authorization number REACH/20/18/7.

Currently no measurements are needed to be submitted nor uploaded to ECHA. However, K. Walter recommends to continue the annual measurements and documentation as usual.

On May 8th, 2024 the authorization application submitted by K.Walter was approved by the European Commission. This means that the use of chromium trioxide under the authorization number REACH C (2024) 2880 and the conditions described therein is authorized for the European Gravure and Embossing Industry until December 31st, 2032.

ECHA (European Chemical Agency) is currently making efforts to simplify the very complex and time consuming authorization process. Various surveys and consultation procedures are underway. K. Walter is participating in these procedures, providing comments in the interest of the European Gravure and Embossing Industry.

Furthermore, the alternative to chromium trioxide, HelioChrome®NEO is ready for the market. HelioChrome®NEO uses non-toxic trivalent chromium and is also free from PFAS. Multiple systems are already in the market. HelioChrome®NEO is a recognized and viable alternative to the conventional hard chrome plating process.

Thus the Gravure and Embossing industry is secured for the future – in short term through the authorization for continued use of chrome trioxide, and in the medium to long term through the transition to the new, non-toxic and PFAS-free technology HelioChrome®NEO.