

27 April 2017

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REACH Authorization of Chromium Trioxide – Status April 2017

- **New timeline, approval is delayed until the Sunset Date**
- **Continued use during the period between the Sunset Date and authorization is possible**
- **Recommendations for action**

Dear Sir or Madam,

We would like to inform you that in June 2017 the EU Commission will put the application for authorization of MacDermid Enthone (and all CTACsub members) on the agenda for making a decision. At that time it is expected that the first draft of the approval will be sent to the EU Member States. A majority vote in the Committee of the Member States and in the European Parliament is the prerequisite for a decision and it is estimated that this will take another 3 months at least. It is therefore expected that the authorization will be granted after the Sunset Date (21st September 2017).

The EU Commission has indicated in the attached letter that the supply and use of chromium trioxide or mixtures and preparations containing chromium trioxide are fully possible in the period between the Sunset Date and the final approval. However, this applies only to uses for which an authorization has been applied for.

In the event that your enforcement authority approaches you during the period between the sunset date and the decision date, you can refer to the ongoing application for authorization from MacDermid Enthone (and all CTACsub members) as your supplier. Further activities are not required at this stage. The links to the applications for authorization are listed in the following table.

No.	Uses applied for	Link to authorization
1	Formulation of Mixtures	https://echa.europa.eu/de/addressing-chemicals-of-concern/authorisation/applications-for-authorisation-previous-consultations/-/substance-rev/10111/term
2	Functional chrome plating	https://echa.europa.eu/de/addressing-chemicals-of-concern/authorisation/applications-for-authorisation-previous-consultations/-/substance-rev/10110/term
3	Functional chrome plating with decorative character incl. Etching of plastics	https://echa.europa.eu/de/addressing-chemicals-of-concern/authorisation/applications-for-authorisation-previous-consultations/-/substance-rev/10104/term
4	Surface treatment for applications in the aeronautics and aerospace industries, unrelated to Functional chrome plating or Functional plating with decorative character	https://echa.europa.eu/de/addressing-chemicals-of-concern/authorisation/applications-for-authorisation-previous-consultations/-/substance-rev/10107/term
5	Surface treatment (except ETP) for applications in various industry sectors namely architectural, automotive, metal manufacturing and finishing, and general engineering	https://echa.europa.eu/de/addressing-chemicals-of-concern/authorisation/applications-for-authorisation-previous-consultations/-/substance-rev/10108/term





Once the authorizations are issued, any downstream users relying on the authorizations must respect the terms and conditions and comply with the requirements in the safety data sheets issued by the authorization holders. The authorization numbers will be communicated in the supply chain via the SDS. Downstream users relying on the authorizations will also have to notify their use to ECHA pursuant to Article 66 REACH. More detailed information will follow in Q3/2017.

RAC and SEAC recommend the adoption by the European Commission of the following so-called review periods¹, outlined in the table in the annex.

With kind regards,

Dirk Wiethölter

MacDermid Enthone Industrial Solutions
Global Product Manager Hard Chrome

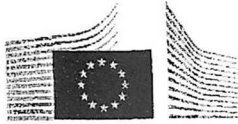
¹ A review period is a deadline in advance of which the applicant must have filed an updated report on the authorization which will allow the European Commission to decide whether the authorized use may continue or not.



Annex: Final Opinion and Recommended Review Periods of CTACsub Application for Authorization for Chromium Trioxide

Use No.	Use name*	Proposed review periods by applicants:	Recommended review periods by RAC/SEAC:	Recommended start of updating Review Documents, assuming 2.5 years are required:	Recommended Submission of review documents 18 months before deadline:	expected Deadline for 1 st Review:
		(from Sunset date on 21.09.2017)				
1	Formulation of mixtures	12 years+	7 years	21.09.2020	21.3.2023	21.9.2024
2	Functional chrome plating (Hard Chrome)	12 years	7 years	21.09.2020	21.3.2023	21.9.2024
3	Functional chrome plating with decorative character incl. Etching of plastics	7 years	4 years	21.09.2017	21.3.2020	21.9.2021
4	Surface treatment for applications in the aeronautics and aerospace industries, unrelated to Functional chrome plating or Functional plating with decorative character	12 years	7 years	21.09.2020	21.3.2023	21.9.2024
5	Surface treatment (except ETP) for applications in various industry sectors namely architectural, automotive, metal manufacturing and finishing, and general engineering	7 years	4 years	21.09.2017	21.3.2020	21.9.2021





EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
Consumer, Environmental and Health Technologies
REACH
Directorate-General for Environment
Circular Economy and Green Growth
Sustainable Chemicals

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GROW/D1/JR/nt
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Subject: Support of AfAs for the production of chrome-plated components in Europe

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter concerning the application for authorisation submitted by the CTAC consortium for six uses of chromium trioxide.

Please be assured that we understand the concerns of the European automotive industry regarding the continuity of supply and the importance of the authorisation Decision for chromium trioxide.

The application in question is complex, covering a very wide range of uses throughout several supply chains. It is the first application for authorisation of such complexity and, according to ECHA's Scientific Committees, there were uncertainties related to workers' exposure as well as to the analysis of alternatives. This makes the assessment by the Commission services more difficult and the preparation of the draft authorisation Decision took more time than we would have hoped for.

That said, we expect to present a draft Decision to the REACH Committee in June.

Please note also that in case a Decision would not be taken by the sunset date, applicants who submitted their application for authorisation within the deadlines provided by the REACH Regulation – as was done by CTAC - will be able to continue to place on the market chromium trioxide for the uses they have applied for by their downstream users.

Sincerely yours,

Klaus Berend
Head of Unit
DG Internal Market, Industry
Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Bjorn Hansen
Head of Unit
DG Environment

