

# Hexavalent chromium

**The EU-directive 2000/53/EC and 2002/525/EC will be effective from the 1st of July 2007.**

This means that hexavalent chromium will be prohibited in private cars and lorries with a weight of up to 2 500 kg.

The law has been regulated because of EU's so called ELV-directive (ELV = End of Life Vehicle) regarding recycling of cars and under which circumstances these are allowed to contain hexavalent chromium, lead, cadmium, and mercury.  
Hexavalent chromium is a poisonous oxide.

Some car manufacturers have already started to drop parts containing hexavalent chromium. And a number of surface treatment specialists are currently working on dropping hexavalent chromium and in some cases eliminate the chromium completely.

The following products are developed to act as a substitute for hexavalent chromium.  
Electroplated coating with zinc and trivalent chromium + sealer.  
Geomet (a chromium-free development of Dacromet).  
Delta treatments.

Previously used surface treatments with an equivalent corrosion protection without hexavalent chromium are:  
Hot dip galvanizing.  
Zinc/Nickel with trivalent chromium.

**The EU-directive 2002/95/EC will be effective from the 1st of July 2006.**

This means that lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, PBB or PBDE will be prohibited in electrical and electronic equipment.

Electrical and electronic equipment or "EEE" means equipment which is dependent on electric currents or electromagnetic fields in order to work properly and equipment for the generation, transfer and measurement of such currents and fields falling under the categories set out in Annex IA to directive 2002/96/EC (WEEE) and designed for use with a voltage rating not exceeding 1 000 volts for alternating current and 1 500 volts for direct current.