

Changes to 40 CFR 63, Subpart N

Hard and Decorative Chromium Electroplating and Chromium Anodizing Tanks including Trivalent Chromium Baths

Federal Register, September 19, 2012 (77 FR 58220)

Applicable Definitions

Existing refers to construction or reconstruction which commenced on or before **February 8, 2012**.

New refers to construction or reconstruction which commenced after **February 8, 2012**.

Summary of the amendments to [40 CFR 63, Subpart N](#)

Fume suppressant and reductions in maximum surface tension:

As of **September 21, 2015** additions of Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid or Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) to any chromium electroplating and/or anodizing tank are prohibited. The U.S. EPA may grant a one (1) year extension from this date allowing the operation to identify an alternative.

Surface tension limits have been revised for operations utilizing a:

- Stalagmometer - reduced from **45** to **40** dynes/cm
- Tensiometer - reduced from **35** to **33** dynes/cm
 - Existing operations have until **September 19, 2014** to meet these limits.
 - New or reconstructed operations must meet them upon **start-up**.

Emission limit reductions:

By **September 19, 2014**, existing operations must meet the following limits:

Regarding open & enclosed hard chromium electroplating tanks:

large – reduced from 0.015 to 0.011 mg/dscm

small – reduced from 0.030 to 0.015 mg/dscm

Regarding decorative electroplating/chromium anodizing:

reduced from 0.010 to 0.007 mg/dscm

Immediately upon startup, new operations must meet the following limits:

Hard Chromium Electroplating:

0.006 mg/dscm

Decorative Electroplating/Chromium Anodizing:

reduced from 0.010 to 0.006 mg/dscm

Testing Requirements for Chromium Emissions:

If a facility completed its performance test for chromium emissions after January 25, 1995 and those results meet the lower limits, that facility is not required to re-test. However, if the test occurred prior to January 25, 1995, the facility is required to re-test.

Recordkeeping:

The fume suppressant manufacturer and product name records are now required in addition to maintaining surface tension measurement and wetting addition records.

Best Management Practices Requirements:

BMPs must be added to your O&M Plan and put into practice no later than **March 19, 2013**. These include:

- Store & transport substances utilized within plating tanks in closed containers. These containers should be stored within an enclosure.
- Utilization of preventive measures to preserve the rinse bath such as drip trays or contain and return systems.
- Collect and treat bath solution having drained or dripped from parts.
- Removal of excess solution over the plating tank.
- Separate the plating operation from buffing, grinding, and/or polishing using a barrier (e.g., plastic strip curtains).
- Begin cleanup within one (1) hour of spill if not within a containment area.
- Clean surfaces including storage areas, open floor areas, and walkways near tanks every seven (7) days or forty hours of operation, whichever is longer. This may be accomplished by choosing one (1) or more of the follow methods:
 - HEPA vacuuming
 - hand-wiping with damp cloth
 - wet mopping
 - rinse using potable water and collect in a treatment system
 - application of non-toxic dust suppressant

Affirmative Defense to Violating Standards during Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction:

The following information is required to support a claim of Affirmative Defense:

- Frequency, amount, and duration of malfunction
- Time needed to make repairs
- Steps taken to minimize impact
- Nature of malfunction
- Root cause analysis