

40 CFR 63 Subpart N

Chromium Electroplating and Anodizing Processes: Housekeeping Practices

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The Federal National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) affects all facilities that use chromium electroplating or anodizing tanks, regardless of size. What your facility must do to comply with the NESHAP depends on the size of your operation and what type of process you use (hard, decorative, or anodizing), and what control technique you employ.

This fact sheet provides a **general overview of the housekeeping procedures in which facilities performing chromium electroplating and anodizing operations must comply with**. State and local regulatory agencies may have additional requirements. If you require additional technical information, the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) provides free and confidential assistance and can be contacted at the toll-free number listed below.

Housekeeping Practices

On September 19, 2012, EPA issued final revisions for the NESHAP for Hard and Decorative Chromium Electroplating and Anodizing Tanks. The revisions include reducing the emission limits for total chromium, enacting new requirements for phasing-out the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) based fume suppressants, and requiring facilities to follow new housekeeping requirements. The phasing-out of the PFOS-based fume suppressants was issued due to it being shown as a persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemical. The new housekeeping practices will allow affected sources to minimize fugitive emissions during operations at very low costs.

If you operate a decorative chromium electroplating tank using a trivalent chromium bath, and can document on-going purchases and use of bath chemicals containing a wetting agent, you are not required to comply with these specific housekeeping practices. However, implementing these practices will further reduce pollution.

The compliance date for implementing housekeeping practices is March 19, 2013. See Table-1 on reverse page for a summary and list of the new housekeeping practices.



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Table 1 – Housekeeping Practices

For:	You Must:	At This Minimum Frequency:
(1) Any substance used in an affected chromium electroplating or chromium anodizing tank that contains hexavalent chromium.	a) Store the substance in a closed container, in an enclosed storage area/building; AND b) Use a closed container when transporting the substance from the enclosed storage area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At all times, except when transferring the substance to and from the container. - Whenever transporting substance, except when transferring the substance to and from the container.
(2) Each affected tank, to minimize spills of bath solution that result from dragout. Note: this measure does not require the return of contaminated bath solution to the tank. This requirement applies only as the parts are removed from the tank. Once away for the tank area, any spilled solution must be handled in according with Item 4 of these housekeeping measures.	a) Install dip trays that collect and return to the tank any bath solution that drips or drains from parts as the parts are removed from the tank; OR b) Contain and return to the tank any bath solution that drains or drips from parts as the parts are removed from the tank; OR c) Collect and treat in an onsite wastewater treatment plant any bath solution that drains or drips from parts as the parts are removed from the tank.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prior to operating the tank. - Whenever removing parts from an affected tank. - Whenever removing parts from an affected tank.
(3) Each spraying operation for removing excess chromic acid from parts removed from, and occurring over, an affected tank.	Install a splash guard to minimize overspray during spraying operations and to ensure that any hexavalent chromium laden liquid captured by the splash guard is returned to the affected chromium electroplating or anodizing tank.	Prior to any such spraying operation.
(4) Each operation that involves the handling or use of any substance used in an affected chromium electroplating or anodizing tank that contains hexavalent chromium.	Begin clean up, or otherwise contain, all spills of the substance. Note: substance that fall or flow into drip trays, pans, sumps, or other containment areas are not considered spills.	Within 1 hour of the spill.
(5) Surfaces within the enclosed storage area, open floor area, walkways around affected tanks contaminated with hexavalent chromium from an affected chromium electroplating or anodizing tank.	a) Clean the surfaces using one or more of the following methods: HEPA vacuuming; Hand-wiping with a damp cloth; Wet mopping; Hose down or rinse with potable water that is collected in a wastewater collection system; other cleaning method approved by the permitting authority; OR b) Apply a non-toxic chemical dust suppressant to the surfaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least once every 7 days if one or more chromium electroplating or anodizing tanks were used, or at least after every 40 hours of operating time of one or more chromium electroplating or anodizing tank, whichever is later. - According to manufacturer's recommendations.
(6) All buffing, grinding, or polishing operations that are located in the same room as chromium electroplating or anodizing operations.	Separate the operation from any affected electroplating or anodizing operation by installing a physical barrier; the barrier may take the form of plastic strip curtains.	Prior to beginning the buffing, grinding, or polishing operation.
(7) All chromium or chromium-containing wastes generated from housekeeping activities.	a) Store, dispose, recover, or recycle the wastes using practices that do not lead to fugitive dust and in accordance with hazardous waste requirements.	At all times.

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Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

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