

05074 Hexavalent Chromium (Cr(VI))

Hexavalent chromium Cr(VI) compounds are a group of chemical substances that contain the metallic element chromium in its positive-6 valence (Hexavalent) state.



How can you be exposed to Hexavalent Chromium?

At Atlantic Marine, Employees can be exposed by inhaling airborne Hexavalent chromium as a dust, fume or mist while: Welding and hot work on stainless steel, high chrome alloys and chrome-coated metal, applying and removing chromate-containing paints and other surface coatings.

How can Hexavalent chromium harm me?

Breathing in high levels of Hexavalent chromium can cause irritation to the nose and throat. Symptoms may include runny nose, sneezing, coughing, itching and a burning sensation. Lung cancers can develop from breathing airborne Hexavalent chromium

Repeated or prolonged exposure can cause sores to develop in the nose and result in nosebleeds. If the damage is severe, the nasal septum (wall separating the nasal passages) develops a hole in it (perforation).

Breathing small amounts of Hexavalent chromium even for long periods does not cause respiratory tract irritation in most people. Some employees become allergic to Hexavalent chromium so that inhaling chromate compounds can cause asthma symptoms such as wheezing and shortness of breath.

Direct skin contact with Hexavalent chromium can cause a non-allergic skin irritation. Contact with non-intact skin can also lead to chrome ulcers. These are small crusted skin sores with a rounded border. They heal slowly and leave scars. You may also have irritation or damage to the eyes and skin if Hexavalent chromium contacts these organs in high concentrations.

How to reduce exposure to Hexavalent chromium

There are several ways to reduce exposure to Hexavalent chromium. Recommended controls vary from operation to operation. The preferred approach is to use engineering controls such as ventilation or equipment and process modification. If these controls are not sufficient, other controls may be implemented, including the use of respirators, eye protection, showering, and changing into street clothes before leaving the shipyard.

Who Can I Call (or See) if I Have Questions or Concerns?

Safety Department Ft George 251-1578 / Mayport 251-2625