

OSHA Standards for Hexavalent Chromium Cr (vi) in Welding fumes

New OSHA standards to reduce exposure to hexavalent chromium Cr (VI) Hexavalent chromium, also known as Cr(VI), poses serious threats to health and safety. Therefore, on February 28, 2006, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) issued a new standard relating to occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium. The new standard lowered the permissible exposure limit (PEL) of hexavalent chromium by more than 10 times, from 52 to 5 micrograms. The OSHA decision to lower the exposure limit was based on a finding that employees exposed to Cr(VI) face an increased risk of significant health effects like lung cancer, asthma, nasal septum ulcerations and perforations, skin ulcerations (“chrome holes”), allergic and irritant contact dermatitis.

OSHA’s permissible exposure limit (PEL) for Hexavalent chromium:

5 micrograms of Cr(VI) per cubic meter of air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) during 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA)

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OSHA has determined that the primary controls most likely to be effective in reducing employee exposure to Cr(VI) are local exhaust ventilation and improvement of general dilution ventilation.

This Guide is intended to provide information about Hexavalent Chromium safety and health standards promulgated by OSHA or by a state with an OSHA-approved state plan*. This Guide is not a standard or regulation, and it creates no legal obligations.

**) States that administer their own OSHA-approved occupational safety and health plans may have different requirements.*

More Information can be found at:

http://www.nedermanusa.com/Local/USA/hexavalent_chromium_OSHA.aspx