

## Statement on the banning of chromium (VI) by the European Union

Since April 2013, *chromium trioxide* (chromium (VI)) has been included in Annex XIV of the EU Regulation *REACH* (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of chemicals). The Annex lists substances of very high concern.

Consequently, the use of chromium (VI) was banned beyond September 2017 for companies that have not been granted special authorisation by the *European Chemicals Agency* (ECHA). However, the ECHA granted special authorisations for a number of industrial enterprises, sectors, groupings and interest groups, including HENKEL Beiz- und Elektropolieretechnik.

In principle, we welcome this ban, as well as the mandatory revision of the Regulation and compulsory substitution of chromium (VI) in industry. While the HENKEL Interference Technique (HIT) requires the use of chromium trioxide-containing electrolyte, there must be no chromium (VI) left on the coloured surface of the component. However, processing chromium trioxide-containing waste water and process solutions involves high costs.

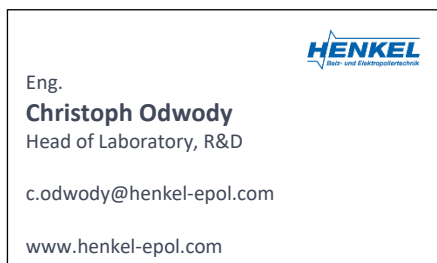
Despite the fact that HENKEL was granted a special authorisation by the ECHA, we have removed the HIT method of colouring from our service portfolio as of 1 January 2018. At the same time, our application laboratory is working in cooperation with external experts on a new method for colouring stainless steel surfaces. The results of the research have been promising so far.

We are confident that we will continue to be able to colour your components to the same high quality.

You can find more information and learn more about the current stage of development at [henkel-epol.com](http://henkel-epol.com).

**As part of the qualification and industrialisation of the new colouring process, we would be delighted to hear from all those who would be interested in supporting us on our journey to developing a more environmentally sustainable colouring process for stainless steel surfaces, and who would be happy to provide us with components for sampling.**

Please address your enquiries regarding sampling to:



Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Management  
27 January 2018