

January 6, 2022

To All Interested Parties:

California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff invites you to participate in a public workshop to discuss the draft concept for the proposed Amendments to the Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for Chromium Plating and Chromic Acid Anodizing Facilities (Amendments).

At the workshop, staff will present a revised regulatory concept to amend the existing Chrome Plating Regulation. Staff will also solicit input on the scope and content of a required environmental analysis, as well as alternative regulatory concepts for consideration in the environmental analysis and standardized regulatory impact analysis that will be prepared for this regulatory action. This workshop will, therefore, also serve as a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting for these potential amendments to the Chrome Plating Regulation.

Workshop Information

The workshop is open to the public and we encourage participation by all parties. The workshop will be held at the location and date shown in the table below. For those unable to attend, a recording of the workshop will be recorded and posted on CARB’s Chrome Plating Regulation [webpage](#).

Date and Time	Location
January 20, 2021 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: Zoom Meeting Password: 444833 Or Telephone: Dial: USA 216 706 7075 USA 8663901828 (US Toll-Free) Conference Code: 182386

Workshop-related materials will be posted on the Chrome Plating Regulation webpage prior to the workshop.

Background

In 1988, an ATCM was adopted to reduce hexavalent chromium emissions from both decorative and hard chrome plating facilities, as well as chromic acid anodizing operations. This measure reduced overall emissions from these facilities by over 90 percent. The emission standards have been met by utilizing add-on pollution control devices such as High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters, packed bed scrubbers, and/or by adding fume suppressants to the plating tanks.

In 1998, the ATCM for Chrome Plating Regulation was amended to establish equivalency with federal standards. These amendments did not change the limits already in place but established separate limits for new sources. These amendments to the ATCM continued to divide hard chrome plating operations into three tiers (Large/Medium/Small) for existing sources but established two tiers (Large and Medium/Small) for new sources. For hard chrome plating, the ATCM required operations to comply with an emission limitation expressed in terms of milligrams of hexavalent chromium emissions per ampere-hour (mg/amp-hr). The applicable emission limitation depended on the chrome plating source size (both in terms of mass emissions and ampere-hour usage). The largest hard chrome plating operations had to meet a control efficiency of over 99 percent. Decorative chrome plating and chromic acid anodizing facilities were required to use chemical or mechanical fume suppressants to reduce hexavalent chromium emissions by 95 percent. In addition to emission requirements, chrome plating and chromic acid anodizing operations were required to conduct a performance test to demonstrate compliance. The ATCM also required regular inspections and maintenance, parameter monitoring, operation and maintenance plans, and recordkeeping.

To further protect public health, amendments to the ATCM for Chrome Plating and Chromic Acid Anodizing Operations were presented and approved by the Board on December 7, 2006. These amendments were subsequently adopted on August 9, 2007, and became legally effective on October 24, 2007. The adopted amendments set forth the most stringent emission control requirements in the nation. Generally, except for small facilities, the limits require the installation or the upgrade of add-on air pollution control devices at the plating tank. Based on proximity to sensitive receptors and total throughput, the requirements became effective between April 24, 2008, and October 24, 2011. The compliance date to meet emission control requirements was October 24, 2009, for facilities with sensitive receptors within 330 feet and/or those with higher throughputs.

The revised regulatory concepts require all decorative plating and functional hard plating facilities to convert to the use of trivalent chromium or a cleaner alternative, or stop using hexavalent chromium. Additionally, the revised concepts recommend statewide improvements to building enclosures, and provide organizations representing the functional hard hexavalent chromium industry the option to present CARB staff with periodic technology reviews. These technology reviews will assess the current state of alternatives to hexavalent chromium.

Environmental Analysis

This workshop will serve as a scoping meeting as required by CEQA. Pursuant to CEQA and CARB's Certified Regulatory Program (Cal. Code Regs., Title 14, §15251(d); Cal. Code Regs., Title 17, §§ 60000–60008), staff will review the proposed Amendments to determine if it will result in any potentially significant adverse environmental impacts. Staff will provide an overview of CARB's process for preparing the environmental analysis (EA) and its content. Staff welcomes public input at the workshop on the appropriate scope and content of the EA at the beginning of our CEQA review process, including the reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance with the proposed Amendments, the potential significant adverse impacts, potential feasible mitigation measures, and feasible alternatives to the proposed Amendments that could reduce or eliminate any of the proposed Amendment's significant adverse impacts. A Draft EA will be released for a 45-day public review and comment period. Comments received at this public workshop will be considered when preparing the CEQA document.

Special Accommodation Request

If you require special accommodation or need this document in an alternate format (i.e. Braille, large print) or another language, please contact [Eugene Rubin](#), no later than 10 business days before the scheduled meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.

Para solicitar estas comodidades especiales o necesidades de otro idioma, por favor de contactar a [Christopher Schlagel](#) al (279) 208-7349 no menos de 10 días de trabajo antes de la junta programada. TTY/TDD/Personas que necesiten este servicio pueden marcar el 711 para el Servicio de Retransmisión de Mensajes de California.

For More Information

For more information, visit CARB's [Chrome Plating Regulation webpage](#). To receive updates and notices of upcoming meetings, sign up for our [email subscription service](#).

If you have questions about the workshops, please contact [Eugene Rubin](#), Staff Air Pollution Specialist.

Sincerely,

Robert Krieger, Branch Chief, Risk Reduction Branch