Lanxess

Includes 6 very broad applications for authorisation (AfA) for the continued use of chromium trioxide for several uses.The Commission has to issue decisions for each application.

Lanxess 1: Formulation of mixtures, 9000 tonnes of chromium trioxide, equivalent to 4500 tonnes of the carcinogen Cr (VI). 1161 workers exposed, 10-100 sites
https://echa.europa.eu/es/applications-for-authorisation-previous-consultations/-/substance-rev/10111/del/50/col/synonymDynamicField_308/type/asc/pre/1/view

Lanxess 2: Functional plating (6000 tonnes of chromium trioxide, equivalent to 3000 tonnes of Cr (VI)) 22928 workers exposed, 1590 sites:

- Aerospace: undercarriage / landing gear and control components; wheel axles or pins or rods of hydraulic actuators; jet turbine engine parts; high lift systems; wear pads, latches and bushings; bearing systems; and suspension splices.
- Automotive and general engineering: moving parts such as engine driven train, transmission, steering, differential components; shock absorbers, piston rings, power train, fuel injection parts, pistons for breaks, engine valves; hydraulic, blanket and plate cylinders; ductors and feed rolls; delivery cylinder pipes; saw shafts; headrests; and belt tongues.
- Steel: rollers and rolling mill bearings; and forging dies.
- Metal precision parts: sugar sieves and other filtration and separation media.
- Manufacture of printing equipment: mandrels; cylinder jackets; and rotogravure plates / rolls.

https://echa.europa.eu/es/applications-for-authorisation-previous-consultations/-/substance-rev/10104/del/50/col/synonymDynamicField_308/type/asc/pre/1/view

Lanxess 3: Decorative plating (3000 tonnes of chromium trioxide, equivalent to 1500 tonnes of Cr (VI), 61880 workers exposed, 1559 sites:

- Automotive: exterior parts, such as: brand labels, rims, front skirts, rear view mirrors and radiator grills; interior parts such as gear lever knobs, trim strips, decorative frames.
- Sanitary: bathroom taps, shower heads, towel rails, soap dishes, mirror frames.
- Household appliances: shavers, parts of coffee machines.
- Furniture and homeware: chairs, kitchen furniture.
- Cosmetics: perfume caps, lipstick caps, nail files and scissors.
- White goods: frame of washing machine doors, interior parts in fridges, oven shelves.
- General engineering: precision parts & electrotechnical parts, microscopes, laser optics.
- Other: electrical devices, lamps and light fittings, tools.

RAC and SEAC opinion adopted in September 2016, including a proposal of a 4 year review period. 1,559 sites, RAC considers that the RMMs and OCs described in the application are not appropriate and effective in limiting the risk to workers. SEAC confirmed that there appear not to be suitable alternatives in terms of their technical and economic feasibility for the applicant.61,880 workers exposed; 82 estimated additional statistical fatal cancer cases among workers and exposed population after 7 years of exposure.
The EEB already did media work on this AfA last year:
http://eeb.org/fashionable-cosmetics-more-important-than-health-for-european-chemicals-agency/

Lanxess 4: Surface treatment for applications in the aeronautics and aerospace industries (1000 tonnes of chromium trioxide, equivalent to 500 tonnes of Cr (VI); 23242 workers exposed, 374 sites.
https://echa.europa.eu/es/applications-for-authorisation-previous-consultations/-/substance-rev/10107/del/50/col/synonymDynamicField_308/type/asc/pre/1/view

Lanxess 5: Surface treatment for applications in various industry sectors namely architectural, automotive, metal manufacturing and finishing, and general engineering (1000 tonnes of chromium trioxide, equivalent to 500 tonnes of Cr (VI); 8045 workers exposed, 515 sites:

- Architectural: building components (envelopes, windows, doors).
- Automotive: belt locks, bumpers, cylinder heads.
- Packaging: food and beverage cans, twist-off caps and aerosol bottoms and tops (including electrolytic chromium/chromium oxide coated steel (ECCS)).
- General engineering: printed circuit boards, photochemical machining, power transformers.

https://echa.europa.eu/es/applications-for-authorisation-previous-consultations/-/substance-rev/10108/del/50/col/synonymDynamicField_308/type/asc/pre/1/view

Lanxess 6: Passivation of tin-plated steel (ETP) mainly for food packaging (food cans). 9 sites, 700 workers exposed, estimation of 1 fatal cancer among workers and surrounding population after 4 years of exposure. No alternatives considered to be suitable. Annual tonnage used: approximately 1000 tonnes of chromium trioxide equivalent to 500 tonnes of Cr (VI).
https://echa.europa.eu/es/applications-for-authorisation-previous-consultations/-/substance-rev/10112/del/50/col/synonymDynamicField_308/type/asc/pre/1/view

COM decision text:

(1) In its opinions on uses 1 to 5, RAC concluded that the risk management measures and operational conditions as described in the application are not appropriate and effective in limiting the risks to workers.

(2) Concerning uses 1 to 5, RAC concluded that there are significant uncertainties regarding worker exposure due to limited availability of measured exposure data. It further concluded that a prevalent lack of contextual information has made it difficult to establish a link between the operational conditions and risk management measures described in the application and the claimed exposure levels for specific tasks and sites, thereby preventing RAC from further evaluation.

(3) In its opinions on uses 2, 3, 4 and 5, SEAC concluded that there are no suitable alternative substances or technologies. Due to the very broad scope of the intended uses, SEAC could not exclude possible uncertainty with regard to the technical feasibility of alternatives for a limited number of specific applications that are covered by the description of the uses applied for.

(4) In its opinions as regards all six uses of chromium trioxide applied for, SEAC concluded that the overall socio-economic benefits arising from each of those uses outweigh the risk to human health arising from those uses.

(5) In its opinions, SEAC recommended the review period referred to in Article 60(9)(e) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 to be set at **seven years for uses 1, 2 and 4 and at four years for uses 3, 5 and 6.**

Conditions!

The authorisation holders shall develop specific exposure scenarios for representative processes, operations and individual tasks (including, for example, automatic versus manual systems and open versus closed systems and combinations thereof), describing risk management measures and operational conditions representative for all sites at which the authorised uses take place, used to control worker exposure to chromium (VI) and its emissions to the environment, in each of the specific scenarios.

1. The authorisation holders and their downstream users to whom this Decision applies by virtue of Article 56(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 shall implement the following monitoring programmes for chromium (VI):
   (a) annual air monitoring programmes on occupational exposure to chromium
   (b) monitoring programmes for chromium (VI) emissions to wastewater and air from local exhaust ventilation.

The authorisation holders' downstream users to whom this Decision applies by virtue of Article 56(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 shall make available to the Agency the information from the monitoring programmes referred to in paragraph 5, including the contextual information related to each set of measurements,