

Hexavalent Chromium Sampling and Shipping Requirements

On February 27, 2006 OSHA issued a final standard for hexavalent chromium.

The new standard lowers OSHA's permissible exposure limit (PEL) for hexavalent chromium, and for all Cr(VI) compounds to $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or $0.005 \text{ mg}/\text{m}^3$ for an 8 hour Time Weighted Average (TWA) exposure.

They have included an exposure-based trigger 8 hour TWA level of one half of the PEL or $2.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, or $0.0025 \text{ mg}/\text{m}^3$.

In order to reach these levels the **minimum sampling volume is now 100 liters** of air with a maximum rate of 2L/minute. This will allow reporting down to $2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Additional information on the revised standard may be found at the Wisconsin Occupational Health Laboratory's website <http://www.slh.wisc.edu/wohl/>.

Welding samples must be analyzed within eight days of sampling. Plating samples must be analyzed within 6 days of sampling. To accomplish this, please comply with the following.

- 1) Contact LESS by email at least one day in advance of sampling.
- 2) LESS will reply to your email attaching an electronic copy of a prepaid United Parcel Service (UPS) label. The label is for one time use and has a short lifetime, so don't request labels too far in advance.
- 3) After sampling, securely package the samples and deliver to the nearest UPS shipping location as soon as possible.
- 4) Please limit sampling to Monday through Wednesday whenever possible. If it is necessary to sample other than Monday – Wednesday, please contact LESS first.

If you have any questions regarding the change in policy, please contact;

Ann Whitaker, Program Manager
Laboratory and Equipment Services Section
Technical Services Division
Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration
Phone 517.284.2902
Fax: 517.284.2920
Email: whitakera@michigan.gov