

Updated 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/>.

Due to the staffing shortage at LESS, hexavalent chromium analyses are being performed by a contract laboratory. This requires coordination with the OHL to ensure required timelines are met to get the samples to the contract lab. 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) Due to the time required to ship the samples to LESS, have them recorded, weighed, and re-shipped to the contract lab, please limit sampling to Monday through Wednesday whenever possible. If it is necessary to sample other than Monday – Wednesday, please contact LESS first so we can make arrangements to hand deliver the samples if necessary.

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

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