

Notice to Suppliers



Updated Info: HS&E Considerations for Hexavalent Chromium

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For the attention of Health & Safety Managers, General Managers, Managing Directors

Scope/Applicability:

All Gas Turbine suppliers, overhaul bases, logistics suppliers, repair suppliers, Return To Part suppliers and revert/scrap suppliers who handle engine run parts

Dear Supply Partner,

This NTS is being issued as an update to NTS 559 issued in September 2022 to raise awareness of Hexavalent Chromium, an issue that is not limited to Rolls-Royce hardware.

Hexavalent Chromium (Cr(VI)) is a carcinogen and a respiratory sensitiser. If inhaled it can lead to occupational asthma and lung cancer. It is also a skin sensitiser which may cause allergic dermatitis through direct skin contact. Individuals exposed to hexavalent chromium require skin and/or respiratory health surveillance to identify any early signs of sensitisation.

Hexavalent Chromium compounds may form on core engine parts as a result of interactions, at engine operating temperatures, between Chromium at the surface of nickel-based and stainless-steel alloy parts and certain dry film lubricants or assembly consumables, or atmospheric dust (e.g. calcium oxide and / or calcium hydroxide) drawn into the engine during operation. Consequently, there is a recognition of potential exposure to such Cr(VI) containing residues during maintenance and overhaul processes on gas turbine components; during "hot work" such as welding, cutting or grinding of parts manufactured from the previously mentioned materials; and during spray painting, sanding or abrasive blasting of chromium containing paints.

The management and control of substances hazardous to health is an employer's responsibility. Therefore suppliers and partners should ensure that they are taking adequate steps to comply with relevant duties to manage risks to employees, including seeking competent HSE advice to ensure local procedures, risk assessments and appropriate control measures take account of this hazard. The attached presentation provides further information about hexavalent chromium and suggested best practices as an aide to those risk assessments.

Action Required:

Consider the information contained in the attached pack when conducting HSE risk assessments in their business.

NTS Category:

Safety

Authorised by:

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