

Fluid Connectors Group Plating Change

Plating Change for New Global Standards

The Commission of the European Communities (EU) has developed several restrictions pertaining to the use of hexavalent chromium (Cr6) in various products.

- Hexavalent chromium has been classified as an environmentally hazardous substance.
- Currently, directives are focused on Europe but it affects product/equipment made in North America destined for sale in Europe.
- The North American transportation manufacturers are driving for the specification change, as they prefer to work to global standards.

Currently, the Parker Fluid Connectors Group's plating process for metal products contains hexavalent chromium. The "gold" appearance of our fittings indicates the plating contains hexavalent chromium.

Movement to Chromium-6 Free Plating

Parker Fluid Connectors will be changing its plating to a process that no longer uses hexavalent chromium, referred to as Chromium-6 Free. This new process results in a new generation of characteristics in our metal fluid-connection components, including:

- Silver in appearance
- More environmentally-friendly
- Improved corrosion protection from current specifications
- No changes in assembly torque values

The plating change will be applicable to all Parker Fluid Connectors facilities and sources worldwide.

Implementation Timeframe

Parker Fluid Connectors will begin the process of converting all parts to the new Chromium-6 Free plating during the first half of calendar 2006.

- During this time period, product with the current plating will continue to ship until the existing inventories are depleted.
- Anticipated that by December 31, 2006, all parts shipped from our manufacturing facilities will feature the new Chromium-6 Free plating.
- For easy identification, all boxes containing product with the new plating will be labeled as "Chromium-6 Free."



The Fluid Connectors Group Chromium-6 Free plating has a:

- Minimum corrosion resistance of 120 salt-spray hours to first white and 240 salt-spray hours to first red.
- Product specific corrosion resistance of 200 salt-spray hours to first white and 500 salt-spray hours to first red.

The Chromium-6 Free plating will require no change in assembly torque values.

Our customers will receive a technically superior product that is safer for the environment.