

CHROMATE PRIMER PAINTS

SUMMARY

1. The compounds of hexavalent chromium (including chromates) can be particularly hazardous to health. Due to their special properties chromate pigments are often used in anti-corrosive paints such as those applied to ships.

BACKGROUND

2. The following issues have been brought to the attention of the Secretariat;

- Shipyards may not always be aware of the presence of chromate primers on ships; and
- There may be differences of opinion regarding the precautions needed to control the risks to health from the primers, particularly during their removal.

3. The following HSE guidance is available:

- Guidance note EH2(rev) *Chromium and its inorganic compounds: health hazards and precautionary measures* ISBN 07176 10012; and
- Engineering Information Sheet 32 *Chromate primer paints* (attached).

ACTION

4. Members are asked to:

- note the contents of the attached guidance and where appropriate, to compare their current arrangements for controlling the risks from chromate primers with those detailed; and
- to discuss this issue at the 46th SSHSCC meeting.