



# Air Resources Board



**Matthew Rodriguez**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

**Mary D. Nichols, Chair**  
1001 I Street • P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, California 95812 • [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov)

**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
Governor

September 21, 2015

Mr. Brian Leiker, President  
Metal Finishing Association of Southern California  
P.O. Box 6547  
Burbank, California 91510-6547

Dear Mr. Leiker:

We received your letter dated September 17, 2015, requesting an extension for a provision in the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants— Hard and Decorative Chromium Electroplating and Chromium Anodizing Tanks (Chrome NESHAP). The Chrome NESHAP requires platers to phase out the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) in fume suppressants by September 21, 2015.

On behalf of all chrome platers in California, excluding those located within the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast District), you requested an additional year to accomplish the PFOS phase out. This additional year would allow for the continued testing and demonstration of non-PFOS fume suppressants that support the use of control techniques capable of meeting all federal, State, and local emission control requirements for air toxics. I appreciate your note that the industry intends to replace PFOS fume suppressants with certified non-PFOS fume suppressants and any other control technologies needed to maintain compliance with California requirements within the one year extension period.

The Air Resources Board (ARB) received delegated authority from the U.S. EPA on March 15, 1999, to implement the "Hexavalent Chromium Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Chrome Plating and Chromic Acid Anodizing Operations" (Chrome ATCM), in place of the Chrome NESHAP as the Federally-enforceable standard in California.

Therefore, pursuant to U.S. EPA's approval of the Chrome ATCM as a substitute for the Chrome NESHAP and U.S. EPA's delegation of authority to implement and enforce the Chrome ATCM, ARB hereby grants California chrome plating facilities, excluding those located within the jurisdiction of the South Coast District, a one-year extension to phase out the use of PFOS in fume suppressants. After September 21, 2016, the owner or operator of a hard chrome plating, decorative chrome plating, or chromic acid anodizing tank, including enclosed tanks and trivalent chromium tanks, shall not add PFOS-based fume suppressants to any electroplating tank.

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.*

California Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Brian Leiker, President  
September 21, 2015  
Page 2

ARB and the South Coast District are continuing to test non-PFOS based fume suppressants and expect that non-PFOS products will be certified for use in California chrome plating operations within the next six to twelve months. Once a non-PFOS fume suppressant is certified, we will update the list of certified fume suppressants at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/chrome/fumesuppresslist.pdf>.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Ms. Elizabeth Yura, Chief of the Emissions Assessment Branch, at (916) 323-4327 or [Elizabeth.Yura@arb.ca.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Yura@arb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Richard W. Corey  
Executive Officer

cc: See next page.