

**GOOD WORKING PRACTICE**

The most effective means of protecting people is to implement methods of working that keep most staff away from any contact at all with paint, paint spray, dry-spray and sanding dust.

Any persons not wearing proper protective equipment should not be in an area where they have the opportunity to come into contact with chromated coatings being applied or sanded.

When spraying is taking place the only person in the area should be the sprayer. Other people, such as technical service representatives, should be outside the painting shed/area.

To reduce the potential of exposure to dry-spray after application, techniques for removal that do not allow the dry chromated paint to become airborne in the area should be used. Wet methods or the use of vacuums to eliminate creation of airborne material are recommended. Pressurized air hoses should not be used to blow clean surfaces containing chromated coatings. Dry-spray which has fallen onto staging, protective masking etc should be damped down, swept up and disposed of in accordance with local regulations.

Sanding of chromated coatings is not recommended. Sanding can cause particulate containing chromate to become airborne. This can give rise to exposure of the eyes, respiratory tract or skin.

It is strongly recommended that work schedules are planned to avoid having to sand. If the overcoating window is missed, and abrasion/sanding becomes necessary, it is essential that NIOSH-approved or other appropriate respiratory personal protective equipment is worn. Applicable exposure limits should be complied with. Consult the Material Safety Datasheet of the product being used for detailed information on exposure limits.

All persons who have been working in the vicinity of chromated paints should remove outer disposable overalls and gloves, rolling the equipment inside out in a fashion to keep any contaminants contained in the overalls. Once PPE is removed, the user should immediately wash their face and hands thoroughly, particularly if they are planning to use the toilet, drink, eat or smoke.

After working, or as soon after as possible after coming into contact with wet paint or dry-spray, a shower should be taken. Staff should not change into other clothes without having a shower, or go home in working clothes.

**DOS AND DON'TS**

**Do**

- Wear a uniform or overalls with full-length sleeves and legs
- Wear a second disposable overall with a hood and booties
- Keep the buttons and zips done up and the hood over your head
- Wear long-sleeve gloves and boots
- Make sure there are no gaps or exposed skin at wrist or ankle
- Wear a supplied air respirator, full-face respirator or half-face respirator depending on work being performed
- Wear safety glasses or goggles to protect the eyes
- Keep everyone out of the area except the application team
- After application is finished use vacuums or wet methods to clean up the area
- Throw away your disposable overalls every day in accordance with local regulations
- Wash your face mask and the inside of your head gear every day
- Wear a clean overall and helmet sweat band every day
- Replace gloves regularly and immediately if there is sign of contamination or damage
- Plan work schedules to avoid the need for sanding chromated coatings

**Don't**

- Allow wet paint, dry-spray or sanded material to come into contact with your skin

Further information about the use of Chromate-containing coatings can be found at [www.awlgrip.com](http://www.awlgrip.com)

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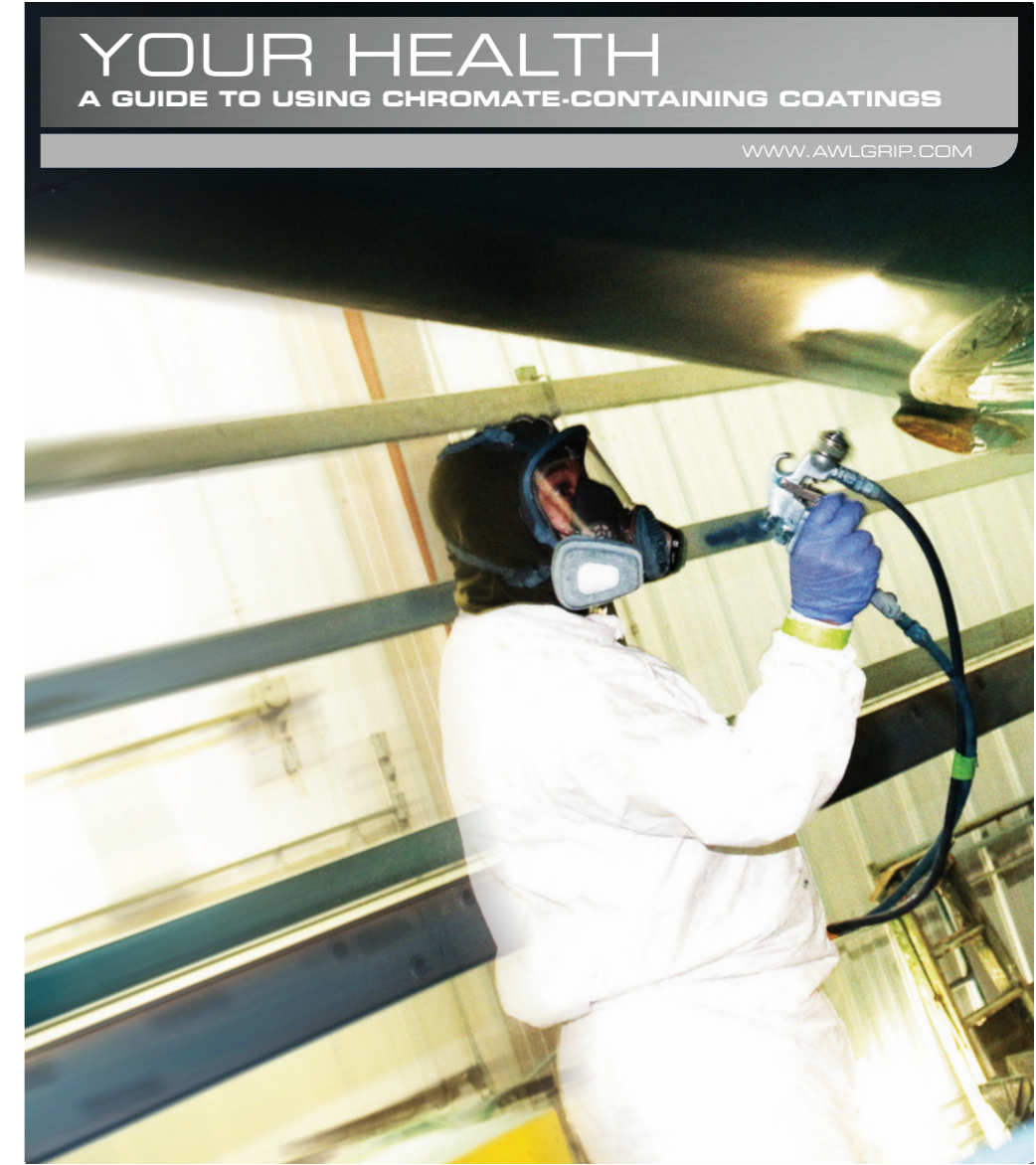
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**YOUR HEALTH**  
A GUIDE TO USING CHROMATE-CONTAINING COATINGS



## INTRODUCTION

The yacht industry has used chromated compounds, such as strontium chromate and zinc chromate, as anticorrosive primers for many years.

As with any chemicals, care should be taken whilst using these products.

Always read the label before use. Up to date information and the relevant Safety Data Sheet can be found on [www.awlgrip.com](http://www.awlgrip.com)

This brochure outlines some basic precautions to take whilst applying any chromate-containing coatings.

## CHROMATE COMPOUNDS: HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION

There is a possibility of exposure to chromate when handling the wet paint, the overspray or dry-spray or dust generated during removal of chromate-containing paint. There is no exposure, and therefore no risk, from contact with dried, undamaged paint film containing chromates.

Chromium (VI) compounds, including chromates, are recognised as substances which can cause cancer in the lungs, nose and other parts of the respiratory system following inhalation.

Chromates can also be absorbed into the body through the skin – particularly if the skin is already damaged – and following ingestion.

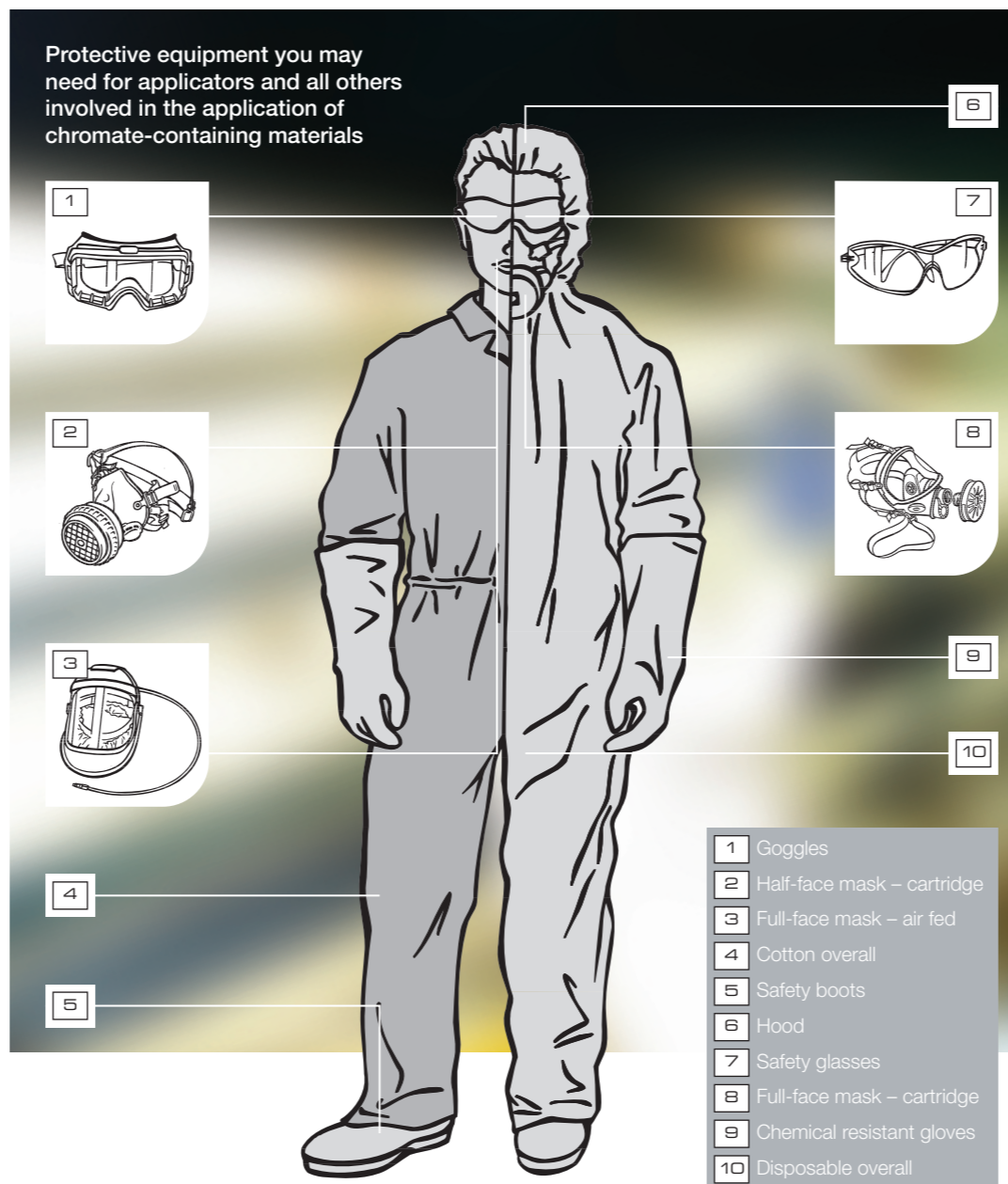
Inhalation of chromates can cause irritation, or even ulceration, of the respiratory system. There is also a possibility of respiratory sensitisation and occupational asthma. If this happens, exposure to even the smallest amount of substance can cause an attack. This is an irreversible and potentially serious condition.

Chromates are also irritating to skin and potent skin sensitisers. Effects can include redness, rash, swelling and eczema-like symptoms. These symptoms can be increased if there is already skin damage at the time of contact.

Contact with the eyes may cause irritation.

Other components in paint may also cause a range of health hazards. These include solvents, epoxy compounds, reactive curing agents and lead. You should always read the label and Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) carefully before starting work with any paint.

### Protective equipment you may need for applicators and all others involved in the application of chromate-containing materials



## PEOPLE AT RISK

The nearer people are to the spraying of chromated paints the greater the risk that they may be exposed to paint or dry-spray, e.g. in a typical spray application this includes some or all of the following:

- Spray applicators
- Repair and maintenance personnel
- Other trades working in the environment, for example fitters, assemblers, supervisory staff, technical service and inspectors
- Others who may come into contact with dry-spray after painting has finished, for example scaffolders, clean up teams etc

## RECOMMENDED CLOTHING / SKIN AND EYE PROTECTION WHEN APPLYING / SANDING CHROMATE-CONTAINING COATINGS

- Long-sleeve, long-leg overalls
- A second disposable protective overall including hood and shoe covers
- Impervious gloves that protect both the hands and wrist. Seek advice from glove manufacturer
- Half-face respirators with HEPA cartridges may be sufficient for light sanding and cleaning
- Full-face respirators with HEPA cartridges or supplied air systems should be used for large sanding operations
- Supplied air respirators or Powered Air Purifying Respirators should be used for spraying applications
- Glasses with side shields or full-face respirator. This protection is required for sanding operations as well as spray applications
- Barrier cream should be worn to protect exposed skin. Barrier cream should not be used in place of protective clothing such as gloves

To avoid contact with chromated paint, overalls should be fully zipped or buttoned up at all times with the hood worn over the head and pulled tightly around the face.