



South Coast Air Quality Management District

REGULATORY ADVISORY

ATTN: Owners and operators of facilities performing chromium electroplating or chromic acid anodizing

Implementation of South Coast AQMD Rule 1469 and CARB Airbourne Toxic Control Measure

REGULATORY DECISION

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) is required to implement various State Airborne Toxic Control Measures (ATCM). The California Air Resources Board (CARB) amended the *Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Chromium Electroplating and Chromic Acid Anodizing Operations* (Chrome ATCM), effective January 1, 2024. When the State adopts/amends an ATCM, an Air Pollution Control District has two options:

1. Implement the ATCM approved by the State, or
2. Adopt a local rule that is as strict or stricter than the ATCM

South Coast AQMD will do the following:

- Existing facilities – South Coast AQMD will continue to enforce Rule 1469 (in lieu of the ATCM)
- New facilities – Effective immediately, South Coast AQMD will be enforcing the Chrome ATCM for New Source Review during the permitting process

South Coast AQMD plans to amend Rule 1469 to incorporate the provisions of the ATCM.

WHAT THIS MEANS

Existing Facilities

Existing facilities would continue to comply with Rule 1469 requirements.

New Facilities

The Chrome ATCM prohibits new hexavalent chrome plating or chromic acid anodizing facilities beginning January 1, 2024. Thus, South Coast AQMD will no longer be issuing permits for this type of equipment at new facilities (those without existing permitted hexavalent chrome plating or chromic acid anodizing equipment).

BACKGROUND

South Coast AQMD Rule 1469

In 1998, the South Coast AQMD adopted Rule 1469 – *Hexavalent Chromium Emission from Chromium Electroplating and Chromic Acid Anodizing Operations*. Rule 1469 was last amended in 2021. Rule 1469 may be obtained at <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xiv/rule-1469.pdf?sfvrsn=4>.

CARB ATCM

The effective dates of some of the more notable requirements are:

- January 1, 2024
 - Prohibits new hexavalent chrome plating and chromic acid anodizing facilities
- January 1, 2026
 - Facilities to operate within a building enclosure
 - Lower emission limit (0.00075 mg/amp-hr) for hard chrome plating and chromic acid anodizing
- January 1, 2027 – Phase out of hexavalent decorative chrome plating not within a building enclosure
- January 1, 2030 – Phase out of hexavalent decorative chrome plating within a building enclosure
- January 1, 2039 – Phase out of hexavalent hard chrome plating and chromic acid anodizing (pending two technology reviews to be completed by January 1, 2032 and January 1, 2036)

The Chrome ATCM is available at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/rulemaking/2023/chromeatcm2023>.

COMPARISON OF RULE 1469 AND ATCM

The amended Chrome ATCM includes many existing requirements included in Rule 1469, such as building enclosure, best management practices, and enhanced housekeeping. The Chrome ATCM also includes phase out requirements for both decorative and functional chrome operations as well as restrictions for new sources of hexavalent chromium, whereas Rule 1469 does not contain such requirements. As such, for existing facilities, Rule 1469 is more stringent than the Chrome ATCM until January 1, 2026 when the lower emission limits for hard chrome plating and chromic acid anodizing becomes effective. For new facilities, the Chrome ATCM is more stringent than Rule 1469.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Each facility is responsible for following all rules. If you have further questions regarding Rule 1469, please contact the following:

- Rule Requirements: Planning and Rules Manager Kalam Cheung at (909) 396-3281.
- Compliance & Enforcement: Your assigned South Coast AQMD Inspector, or Senior Enforcement Manager Devorlyn Celestine at (909) 396-2368.
- Engineering & Permitting: The Coating, Printing, Plating, and Aerospace Operations team at (909) 396-3393.

For additional information on the Chrome ATCM, please contact CARB at chromeplatingatcm@arb.ca.gov or visit <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/chrome-plating-atcm>