

December 28, 2005

RoHS Bulletin
Hexavalent Chromium – Birtcher Products

The RoHS European Directive (Reduction of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment) prohibits or restricts the inclusion of six banned substances. One of these banned substances is Hexavalent Chromium (Cr+6).

Gold chem film as a conversion coating is specified on all standard Birtcher Wedge-Loks, Wedge-Tainers, Extractors & Code Keys. Gold chem film is also specified on many military and aerospace drawings including Defense Supply Center Columbus (DSCC) Commercial Item Descriptions. Because these products are used in countless military applications, Pentair Electronic Packaging (Birtcher Products) will continue to offer gold chem film as our standard conversion coating.

Please be aware that gold chem film is not considered RoHS compliant and in general will be prohibited from sale in the European Union effective July 1, 2006. However, certain electronic equipment for military and aerospace applications will be exempt from this directive.

Pentair Electronic Packaging (Birtcher Products) will now offer a RoHS compliant, clear chem film process with trivalent (Cr+3) chemistry. This new process is based on U.S. Navy technology and complies with MIL-C-5541. We have performed extensive testing on this process and are confident that it will meet the required specifications as well as our customer's needs.

The current chem film gold process is differentiated from the chem film clear by the fact that that they are produced by longer immersion times in a Hexavalent (Cr+6) Chromate bath.

Pentair Electronic Packaging (Birtcher Products) recommendation is to select chem film clear for aluminum conversion coating if it must be RoHS Compliant.

Should you have any additional questions or need additional supporting information, please feel free to contact the following:

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