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## To Whom It May Concern

### Phasing Out of Cr(VI)-Containing Products in the European Market until 2016/2017

By April 17, 2013, the European Commission has included Cr(VI)-salts under Annex XIV. Thus a so-called sunset date for the European Market has been established for Sept. 21, 2017. After this sunset date, Cr(VI)-containing products can only be placed on the European market, if a substance- and application-specific authorization was granted to the company by the European Chemical Agency (ECHA). Last applications for authorization must be submitted by March 21, 2016.

Balancing very carefully the needs of our clients, the marketing opportunities, but also SurTec's vision on sustainability as well as health risks, SurTec has decided not to apply for any authorization in respect of the inclusion of Cr(VI)-containing products under REACH legislation.

This means SurTec will concentrate its efforts in R&D and Marketing on phasing out Cr(VI)-containing products in the European market until 2016/2017.

In fact, SurTec already offers fully alternative technologies, such as

- SurTec 881, SurTec 882, SurTec 883 and SurTec 876 for the decorative markets
- SurTec 640, SurTec 650, SurTec 654 for metal pre-treatment of Al (yellow, green)
- SurTec 690, SurTec 691, SurTec 694, SurTec 696 and others for electroplating of Zn and Zn-Alloys (black); for blue/transparent, yellow or olive, nearly all SurTec products are Cr(VI)-free

Beyond the borders of Europe, SurTec will provide its product portfolio in compliance with the national and supranational stipulations on import/export, production, marketing and transport of chemicals.



SurTec pledges and commits itself to responsible management as the basis for business success and long-term survival. We are convinced that economic achievement potential, social responsibility, concern for the health and safety of our employees and environmental protection are inextricably linked to one another.

We are fully serving our customers' needs and supply our customers with products that have as minimal impact on the environment as possible and reflecting highest standard of quality and efficiency. In this respect we are a leader in the market by virtue of our principles and innovative strengths.

If you require more information, or in case you have further questions or require support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Bensheim, April 2013

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