Hexavalent chromium: the European restriction goes to public consultation

17/06/2026

In April 2025 the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) submitted a proposal to **restrict chromium(VI) substances** under the REACH regulation, mandated by the European Commission. After the opinions of its scientific committees, the draft is open to public consultation from 17 June to 17 August 2026.

The proposal directly affects **decorative and functional chrome plating on plastics**, one of the sector's historic processes. An 18-month transition period after entry into force is proposed, and the most likely timetable places final adoption between late 2027 and 2028. Existing Annex XIV authorisations remain in force in the meantime.

The move accelerates the shift to alternatives already found in today's cars: trivalent chrome, **PVD** coatings (black chrome, gold, copper), metallic-effect paints and satin or brushed finishes. Our aesthetics configurator lets you compare these finish families on the same part.

Sources: Certivo · FoBiG