

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Greg O'Claray, Commissioner

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For More Information: Joe Holbert, Special Assistant for Communications

907-465-5673 or 907-321-6071 (Cell)

State mirrors federal rules for safe use of chromium gas

(Juneau) – The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development has implemented occupational safety requirements that mirror updated federal regulations to prevent excess exposure to hexavalent chromium, or Chromium VI, an industrial gas primarily associated with metal electroplating.

The gas is used in scores of metal electroplating applications including the automotive, office and home appliance and jewelry industries. "However, electroplating applications that utilize Chromium VI are uncommon in Alaska," said Division of Labor Standards and Safety Director Grey Mitchell.

The state is required to publish compliance updates with standards of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, implemented by the U.S. Department of Labor and published in the Federal Register.

The Alaska labor department posts a list of regulatory and interpretive directives online at http://labor.state.ak.us/lss/forms/master-log.pdf. The information also is available from Jenny George at 907.465.4855 or jenny_george@labor.state.ak.us.