

# Latest news on CTAC chromium trioxide authorization and K.Walter authorization application for ChromeXtend



USERS CAN CONTINUE TO USE CHROMIUM TRIOXIDE FOR NOW

On April 20th, 2023, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled in favor of a complaint by the European Parliament against the European Commission, resulting in the immediate nullification of the CTAC authorization for chromium trioxide. As a result, the current supply chain for chromium trioxide in Europe currently has no authorization.

The ECJ has further decided that the current supply chain and use of chromium trioxide may continue until a new decision is made by the European Commission. According to the ECJ, this decision must be made within one year, by April 20th, 2024 at the latest.

## What does this decision mean for you as a user of chromium trioxide?

- You can continue to use chromium trioxide for now under the known safety regulations.
- However, this permission is valid only until April 2024, or until a decision is made by the EU Commission before then.
- It is now a matter of waiting to see what the new decision on CTAC authorization will be and how it will be executed in terms of regulations or content.

## How does this decision affect the K.Walter authorization application for ChromeXtend?

The current ECJ decisions on the general CTAC application do not directly affect our specific application. In the meantime, the EU Commission's decision on this matter has been postponed to the end of April due to the large number of applications to be reviewed. We now expect to be included in the agenda of the relevant EU committees and to have a vote on our application at the end of June 2023.

To emphasize the urgency of the vote on our application, we have sent a letter to the EU Commission again, highlighting the importance and significance of the pending vote for the entire European gravure and embossing industry. Our ChromeXtend authorization application was already submitted to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in the spring of 2021. It covers the use of chromium trioxide for horizontal chrome plating systems in the gravure and embossing sector and is intended to provide users with planning and production security until around the end of 2032, in accordance with the ECHA recommendation for a review period.

The ECHA has considered the application to be very positive, as it addresses all the criticisms of the CTAC application and includes a clear forward-looking replacement plan. The ECHA emphasizes that chromium trioxide exposures can be significantly reduced through various measures thanks to the developed "Health and Safety" package. Thus, the already high safety standard in existing chrome plating systems can be further increased significantly.

For further questions on the subject of chromium trioxide, please contact Ms. Sylvia Berger:  
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