Possible sources of exposure

- Occupational exposure (painting production, chrome plating, wood preserving, smelting of ore, welding of stainless steel and alloys, impurity in cement and leather)
- Contaminates fumes or mist
- Paint pigments and corrosion inhibitors (chromates)
- Solutions, coatings and cements
- Contaminated food and water
- Accidental dust ingestion due to hand-mouth contact

How can chromium VI enter your body?

- Via inhalation
- Via dermal absorption
- Via ingestion

How might chromium VI affect your health?

- Eye damage
- Respiratory tract problems
- Lung cancer
- Skin irritation, skin ulcers, skin sensitization, and allergic contact dermatitis (ACD)
- Infertility

How can you reduce your exposure to chromium VI?

- Don’t eat, drink or smoke in work areas where chromium VI may be present
- Comply with workers’ regulations on carcinogens
- Use engineering controls at workplace as local exhaust ventilation (LEV), process enclosure, process modification
- Use personal protection equipment (PPE) at workplace as respirators, gloves and protective clothing
- Use hygiene and sanitation practices, laundry facilities and changing areas provided at workplace
- If you are an employer, make medical examinations available to employees

Where they can be possibly found?

Chromium VI is present in cement, textiles, leather, chrome baths, chrome ore, chrome colors and dyes, paints, primers, anti-corrosion pigments, and coatings.

Despite the fact that exposure to citizens is very limited, the European Union has taken action to reduce citizens’ exposure to chromium VI known to cause risks to health. Legislation is also in place at occupational settings.

For further information on how the European Union is protecting citizens read the HBM4EU Chromium VI Factsheet.