

## **APEAL WELCOMES THE PUBLICATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECISION THAT GRANTS REACH AUTHORISATIONS FOR THE TEMPORARY CONTINUATION OF THE USE OF SODIUM DICHROMATE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF STEEL FOR PACKAGING**

APEAL and its members are actively developing alternatives to the use of hexavalent chromium in our processes. Our Industry, along with our supply chains, continue to work towards the successful implementation of hexavalent chromium free alternatives for steel for packaging. Such substitution can only, however, occur once alternatives have been qualified in terms of continued product performance and consumer safety.

### **HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM IS USED SAFELY AND LEGALLY, AND IS NEVER PRESENT ON THE SURFACE OF STEEL FOR PACKAGING**

The Decision of the EU Commission, published on 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2020, permits the use of Sodium Dichromate in our production processes until **14<sup>th</sup> of April 2024**. This Decision provides legal certainty around the continuity of our members' operations while alternative substances are fully developed and qualified.

APEAL welcome this positive step forward which recognises the commitment by our sector to ensure risk management measures and operational conditions are appropriate and effective in limiting the risks to workers and the environment, while also demonstrating support for the development of innovative European alternative processes to the use of SVHC substances in the steel for packaging value chain.

APEAL and its members now request that the REACH Committee of Member States and the European Commission proceed swiftly with the Decision to authorise uses related to steel for packaging covered by the CTAC-Sub Authorisation application for Chromium Trioxide.

The REACH Authorisation process aims to protect human health and the environment from the use of certain chemical substances by encouraging industrial sectors to substitute to safer alternative substances or processes.

For steel for packaging this is a challenge that needs to be met by the entire value chain, from tinplate manufacturers to can-makers to coatings suppliers and can fillers. To this end, APEAL members have been engaged for many years in the development of an alternative passivation technology: Chrome Free Passivation Alternative (CFPA).

With this certainty gained through the Decision on this Authorisation, we hope that a swift change to CFPA will now occur demonstrating the commitment of the entire value chain to the aims of REACH.

Brussels, April 2020