

40 CFR 63 Subpart N- Chromium Electroplating and Anodizing Processes: New York State Air Permits

The Federal National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) affects all facilities that use chromium electroplating or anodizing tanks, regardless of size. What your facility must do to comply with the NESHAP depends on the size of your operation and what type of process you use (hard, decorative, or anodizing).

This fact sheet provides a general overview of the New York State Air Emissions Permits that chromium electroplating and anodizing operations are required to obtain. If you require additional technical information, the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) provides free and confidential assistance and can be contacted at the toll-free number listed below. Several fact sheets that describe the technical requirements of the Chromium Electroplating and Anodizing NESHAP are available for referencing on our website.

Permitting

In addition to the technical requirements of the NESHAP, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) requires chromium electroplating and anodizing facilities to obtain Air Emissions Permits. DEC issues three types of air permits;

- Air Facility Registrations (Minor sources, emission capping by rule)
- State Facility Permits (Minor sources, federally enforceable emission caps)
- Title V operating permits (for Major sources)

Major facilities have the potential to emit 10 tons or more per year of any individual hazardous air pollutant (HAP) or 25 tons or more per year of HAP's in aggregate. *Minor facilities* have the potential to emit less than 10 tons per year of any individual hazardous air pollutant (HAP) or 25 tons per year of HAP's in aggregate.

When the NESHAP was first issued, it required that all chromium facilities subject to the NESHAP obtain a Title V operating permit, including minor area sources. The EPA subsequently decided to exempt minor decorative chromium electroplaters and anodizers that use a fume suppressant, and to defer the other minor sources from Title V permitting until 1999. In 2005, at the end of the multiple deferral periods, the EPA decided that chromium electroplating and anodizing area sources will be exempt from any Title V operating permit requirements; they concluded that most chromium electroplaters are small businesses (*and minor sources*), and the requiring Title V operating permits would be “unnecessarily burdensome.” The table on the following page summarizes the permitting requirements for chromium electroplating and anodizing facilities. The information is arranged by facility type and by emission category (major or minor).

Table 1- NYS Air Permits for Chromium Electroplating and Anodizing Facilities

Facility Type*	Air Permit Type	Criteria
Minor sources, emission capping by rule	Air Facility Registrations For Smallest Sources	Actual annual emissions are less than ½ of the major source thresholds. (less than 5 tons per year of an individual HAP and less than 12.5 tons per year of all HAPs combined)
Minor sources, federally enforceable emission caps	State Facility Permits For mid-sized sources	Actual annual emissions are more than ½ of the major source thresholds. BUT less than the major source threshold. (More than 5 tons per year of an individual HAP or more than 12.5 tons per year of all HAPs combines BUT less than 25 tons per year of all HAPs combined)
Major sources	Title V operating permits For Large Sources	Potential annual emissions are more than the major source thresholds and facility chooses not to cap. OR Actual annual emissions are more than the major source thresholds and therefore cannot cap.

* **Major:** Facility with the potential to emit 10 tons (or more) per year of an individual hazardous air pollutant (HAP) or 25 tons (or more) per year of HAP's in aggregate.

* **Minor:** Facility with the potential to emit less than 10 tons per year of an individual hazardous air pollutant (HAP) and less than 25 tons per year of HAP's in aggregate. Within the NESHAP, minor sources are also known as "area" sources.

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