



## Chrome Free

Wedge Group Galvanizing have recently completed a four-year programme to convert our whole business to Chrome Free passivation ahead of the September 2024 regulatory requirements.

### Chrome Free Solution

We have selected a Chrome Free solution (as opposed to a Trivalent alternative) as we have witnessed other industries convert to Trivalent products (so still Chrome based) from Hexavalent Chrome products to then have only to convert again to fully Chrome Free products soon afterwards as the long-term solution. We therefore elected to make just one change on behalf of our customers and transition to the long-term Chrome Free option immediately.

The Chrome Free option not only meets the highest demands of the regulatory requirements, but it also reflects Wedge Group Galvanizing's long-term commitment to sustainability within our business and to our triple bottom line approach to not only drive financial sustainability but also to delivering the greatest protection to the planet and to those stakeholders who come into contact with our products.

### Early Adoption

As an early adopter to Chrome Free product, we have used this four-year period to execute a controlled plan to convert our sites in a strategic order, whilst developing alternative Chrome Free products from two key suppliers. This approach has allowed us:

- To overcome the difficult and time-consuming challenges associated with migrating from Hexavalent passivation.
- To become well versed in this new technology.
- To refine our operating practises to a high standard.
- To develop a group wide approach.
- To overcome many of the detailed teething issues associated with any Trivalent or Non-Chrome alternative.

We feel this phased approach has been invaluable in resolving the teething issues that many others have yet to experience and / or understand.

### Conclusion

The Chrome-Free product now used across the Wedge Group network of plants continues to provide aesthetic benefits similar to the previous passivation process. It is compatible with additional protective systems like painting or powder coating. Based on our four years of experience, we are confident that well-managed Chrome-Free passivated products from Wedge Group Galvanizing offer protection against white rust for many months.