

DENR issues Chemical Control Orders for Cadmium and Chromium (VI) Compounds

Pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990), and Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2005-05 (Toxic Chemical Substances for Issuance of Chemical Control Orders), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), has issued Administrative Order No. 2021-008, or the Chemical Control Order (CCO) for Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds, and Administrative Order 2021-009, or the Chemical Control Order for Chromium (VI) Compounds.

Cadmium is a soft, malleable, bluish white metal, which is commonly used in the production of batteries, alloys, electroplated coating, solar cells, plastic stabilizers, and pigments.

On the other hand, Chromium (VI), also known as hexavalent chromium, and its compounds are used widely in applications such as pigments for textile dyes, paints, inks, plastics, wood preservatives, leather tanning, metal finishing and chrome plating. It can occur naturally in the Earth's crust, although it is primarily emitted to the environment because of anthropogenic activities.

Environmental Management Bureau Director Engr. William P. Cuñado emphasized the need for the said Chemical Control Orders, as Cadmium and Chromium (VI) compounds can have adverse effects on both the environment and human health. That is why there is a need to increase awareness, especially on the availability of technically superior and safe alternatives.

"Cadmium and Chromium (VI) compounds are widely used in a lot of industrial processes. However, exposure to these compounds can cause health problems such as respiratory infections, allergies, lung and kidney diseases, and even cancers," Cuñado said.

"These elements can also cause great harm to our environment, especially the contamination of our soil, water, air, and can even harm plants, animals and micro-organisms when not managed properly", he added.

Chemical Control Orders (CCOs) are issuances that prohibit, limit, or regulate the use, manufacture, import, export, transport, storage, possession, and wholesale of chemicals that the Department determined to be regulated, phased-out or banned, due to their serious environmental, health and safety risks.

According to DAO 2021-008, any cadmium in products and materials not considered as chemical substance or mixture, such as (but not limited to): batteries, toys, electronic equipment, jewelry ceramics are not covered by the scope of RA 6969 but may be covered by other regulatory agencies such as the Department of Trade and Industry, Food and Drug Administration, and Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority.

Meanwhile, DAO 2021-009 states that the use of Chromium (VI) compounds shall be regulated in the manufacture and production of: pigments, inks, textile dyes, electronic equipment and electroplating, protective coatings and paint, and stainless steel. Likewise, the use of the said

compounds shall also be regulated in the activities relating to the operation of laboratory facilities and tanneries.

Importers, manufacturers, distributors and allowed users of Cadmium, Chromium (VI) and its compounds, as well as any person or entity involved in the transport, recycling, treatment, storage, and disposal of these must register to the EMB's Online Permitting and Monitoring System website at <http://opms.emb.gov.ph>.

Likewise, applicants are also required to submit their respective Chemical Management Plan, to ensure that Cadmium or Chromium (VI) compounds are managed in a manner that will eliminate or minimize health and environmental risks.

Meanwhile, importers of Cadmium and Chromium (VI) compounds must apply for an Importation Clearance, through the OPMS, which shall be valid for six months.

For the full text of the DAOs and their respective Registration Forms, Lists of Requirements, Application for Importation Forms, and other related information and documents, please visit the EMB's Chemical Management Section website at <http://chemical.emb.gov.ph>, and look for the Chemical Control Order icon on the left-hand corner of the page.###