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COMPLIANCE WITH THE DIRECTIVE 2002/95/EC OF ARCELOR FCS COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS

The article 4.1.of the Directive 2002/95/EC of the European parliament of the council of 27 January 2003 on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment imposes “Member States shall ensure that, from 1st of July 2006, new electrical and electronic equipment put on the market does not contain lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls (PBB) or polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE)”.

The annex of the directive includes an exemption for lead “as an alloying element in steel containing up to 0,35 % lead by weight, aluminium containing up to 0,4 % lead by weight and as a copper alloy containing up to 4 % lead by weight”.

Flat Carbon Steels and their coatings contain neither PBB nor PBDE.

Arcelor FCS Commercial product offer will be in total conformity with the directive, the 1st January 2006 at last. Some customer requirements (specific color, specific treatment...) could leave our offer if they would not be in accordance with it.

1) Lead

In spite of the exemption included in the directive, Arcelor Flat Carbon Steel uses no lead as an intentionally introduced substance¹ in its steel making plants. Natural traces of lead in steel are lower than 0,025%.

For metallic coatings except Hot Dip Galvanised with spangles, Arcelor Flat Carbon Steel uses metal supplies without intentionally introduced lead. Natural traces of lead in these coatings are lower than 0,005%.

In Hot Dip Galvanised with spangles, intentionally introduced lead content may reach 0.2% in the metallic coating. Arcelor Flat Carbon Steel intends to remove intentionally introduced lead form all its Hot Dip Galvanised production before the end of 2004. From now onwards, lead free metallic coatings² may be delivered on request.

Lead chromates may be used as a pigment in the topcoat of prepainted steels. Arcelor Flat Carbon Steel policy is to remove such pigments from its paints with minimal changes in shade and metamerism. This evolution will be carried out before the 1st of

¹ “Intentionally introduced” shall mean “deliberately utilized in the formulation of a material or component where its continued presence is desired in the final product to provide a specific characteristic, appearance or quality”.

² I.e. without intentionally introduced lead.

July 2006, and can be anticipated on request. There is no other use of lead as an intentionally introduced substance in paints for prepainted steels for electrical and electronic equipment.

2) Hexavalent Chromium

With regard to materials for electrical and electronic equipment, hexavalent chromium may be used in passivation on metallic coatings, in surface treatment for organic coating and in paints (top coat, back coat and primer).

Arcelor Flat Carbon Steel is developing with its suppliers a hexavalent chromium free passivation (industrial start up in 2004). It will completely replace chromate based one before 1st of July 2006 for the whole Electrical and Electronic Equipment market.

Arcelor Flat Carbon Steel is developing with its suppliers a hexavalent chromium free thin organic coating (Easyfilm E, industrial start up in 2004). It will completely replace hexavalent chromium based one before 1st of July 2006.

Arcelor Flat Carbon Steel is developing with its suppliers a hexavalent chromium free surface treatment for prepainted steel (industrial start up in 2004). It will replace hexavalent chromium based one before 1st of July 2006.

In paints, the only existing use of hexavalent chromium in materials for electrical and electronic equipment in Arcelor Flat Carbon Steel is in lead chromates for pigments in topcoats; these pigments will be removed from Arcelor FCS Commercial offer (see §1).

3) Mercury and Cadmium

Arcelor Flat Carbon Steel uses neither mercury nor cadmium as an intentionally introduced substance in its steel making plants. Natural traces of these substances in steel are lower than 0,0001%.

In metallic and organic coatings for electrical and electronic equipment, Arcelor Flat Carbon Steel uses only material without intentionally introduced mercury and cadmium. Natural traces of mercury in metallic coatings are lower than 0,0001%, and natural traces of cadmium lower than 0,01%.

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