

# HEX CHROME ELIMINATION

## PRODUCT FEATURES

### 2006 Model Year Hexavalent Chromium Elimination

Ford Motor Company's Restricted Substance Management Standard (RSMS) WSS-M99P9999-A1 prohibits the use of motor vehicle parts coated with hexavalent chromium (hex chrome) for all vehicles produced beginning with the 2006 Model Year. This requirement applies worldwide.

Hexavalent chromium had been used as a corrosion resistant coating on many steel, aluminum, zinc and magnesium motor vehicle parts. These coatings appeared in a number of colors including iridescent yellows, clear, olive green and black. Motor vehicle parts with hexavalent chromium coatings included:

- Approximately 2500 small fasteners (screws, clips, nuts, bolts)
- Approximately 100 medium-sized steel parts (V-belt pulleys, brackets, levers)
- Approximately 50 larger parts (radiators, brake lines, body panels and wheel rims)

Chrome plating, which results in the familiar reflective surface, does not deposit hexavalent chromium.

Since hexavalent chromium is a surface coating, the replacement of hexavalent chromium with another anti-corrosion coating changes the frictional characteristics of the component. This is particularly important for fasteners or surfaces of parts that a fastener contacts. With the replacement of hexavalent chromium, fastener torques have been tested and validated in the Ford Fastener Lab.

**NOTE: Revised torque requirements have been released by engineering and are contained in the Ford Service Manuals. Not all torques have changed, but many installations require different fastener torques. It is very important that the specified fastener torque be used to ensure proper retention.**