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Chromate Elimination Efforts by the DoD Delivers Superior Performance During Operation Iraqi Freedom

Air Force Incorporates New Technology

Phoenix, AZ—July 25, 2003-- In 1996 the first non-chromated surface pretreatment, PreKote SP, was discovered by the Department of Defense while focusing on the need to reduce the release of chromates during aircraft coating applications. After testing several products only PreKote SP passed after six months where all other products failed. Although the initial goal was to replace the chromate conversion coating, testing showed that PreKote SP eliminated all other hazardous chemicals in the pretreatment process including etchants, solvents, acid brighteners and alkali washes.

After the first F-16 was painted and successfully tested with PreKote SP, the Air Force decided to expand the testing to include the T-37 and the T-38. Currently, over 50 T-37's and T-38's have also been painted using PreKote SP. In 2001, testing on the F-16's was complete and in 2000 the Technical Order was changed to authorize the use of PreKote SP as a non-chrome surface pretreatment solution.

Currently over 700 F-16s have been painted with PreKote SP with some being deployed around the world. Most recently in Operation Iraqi Freedom, PreKote SP protected the planes in harsh desert conditions with added corrosion protection and better paint adhesion. To date, not one of the 700 F 16's have suffered early paint adhesion failure.

A new generation non-chromated primer has recently been introduced that is highly effective when combined with PreKote SP. The combination of the primer with PreKote SP is proving to be a total non-chrome solution for the aerospace industry in both the military and commercial segments. The future shift to a total non-chromated system will have a positive impact in worker safety, savings in handling and disposal procedures and a big step towards the future elimination of chrome containing products.

Pantheon Chemical is an industrial chemical manufacturer that replaces toxic chemicals and processes with high performance non-hazardous products. Our goal is to extend the life of our customer's equipment, reduce costs and inefficiencies inherent in the use of traditional chemical products and eliminate the exposure of hazardous materials to individuals, organization and the environment.