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Ergotec steel handlebars with Chrome 3 surface

Following the extensive investment of around €1 million in the Wickede double-nickel-chrome electroplating plant in conjunction with the company's extensive CSR efforts, the surface coating of all ergotec steel handlebars and handlebars with a chrome-plated surface will be switched to the Reach-compliant Chrome 3 process from 1st July.

Both in Asia and in Europe, the process chemical chromium 6 is often used in the chrome plating process. Chromium 6 is suspected of being carcinogenic and/or mutagenic. For this reason, the chemical was placed on the Reach ban list some time ago.

Humpert has gradually introduced the Chrome 3 process and optimised it by renewing and expanding the electroplating plant in recent months. The main focus here was on increasing corrosion resistance. As with the Chrome 6 process, the Chrome 3 surface coating fulfils the corrosion standard according to ASTM 9 or 96 h salt spray test. This means that outdoor applications are possible without any problems.

Some sectors, such as parts of the furniture industry (indoor use), switched to Chrome 3 some time ago when using chrome-plated surfaces in order to fulfil their responsibility to upstream suppliers.

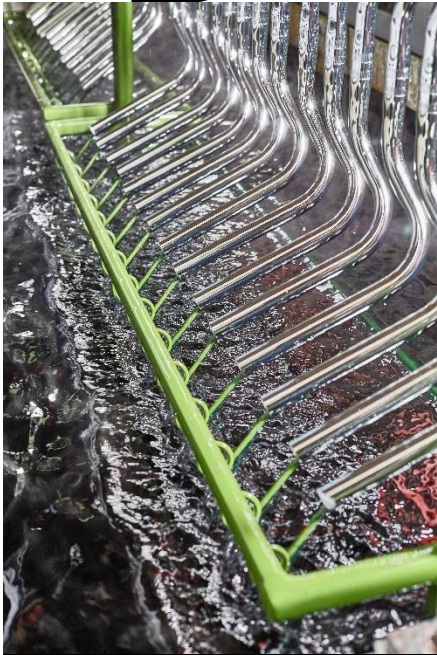
For the consumer, it is ultimately only a moral difference between the use of the process chemicals Chrome 6 or Chrome 3, as the chrome surface of the end product is converted to a chrome 0 state in each case. However, handlebars with a chromium 3-based chrome plating can protect the health of the workers involved in the galvanising process.

The Humpert Chrome 3 process, which was developed in close cooperation with a leading international specialist company for use in the modernised electroplating plant, is now being launched on the market as "Chrome 3 EcoShield" both for bicycle handlebars and for coating surfaces in various industries.



The "aluminium look" colour is also coated by using the Chrome 3 process.

ergotec



picture: Chrome-3 coating process



picture: Handlebar bending with the Kuka robot