

Steel Warehouse Company LLC

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May 22, 2006

To our customers:

**RE: Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS), Electronics
EU Directive 2002/95/EC of the European Parliament and Council
dated January 27, 2003 with an effective date of July 1, 2006**

Steel Warehouse Company LLC is a distributor of carbon, alloy, and stainless steels produced by a number of mills worldwide. We sell these products in coil, sheet, plate, and tailored blank form. Since we process purchased steel and do not melt it, we have relied on the statements of our vendors to help formulate our response. We understand the directive is applied to reducing the “hazardous” content of electronic devices to minimize environmental issues related to their disposal.

Regarding lead (Pb), mercury (Hg), cadmium (Cd), poly-brominated biphenyls and di-phenyl ethers (PBB and PBDE):

- None of the above restricted substances are intentionally added to steel
- If present, they would have to come from the scrap used to make steel
- The physics of the steel-making process make it unlikely that any of the substances will survive the melting operation
- 100% scrap-fed mini-mills advise that 0-20 ppm Cd and 0-100 ppm Pb, both well within RoHS maximum concentration levels, have been found in finished product. No PBB, PBDE, or Hg has ever been detected.
- We are not aware of test results from any source indicating non-compliance.
- We do not distribute leaded steels, which are currently exempted
- Based on the above, we believe our suppliers (and we) are in compliance with the directive.

Regarding hexavalent chromium (Cr+6):

Cr+6 is applied at the mill to both hot-dip galvanized and electrogalvanized steels as a passivation agent or “chemical treatment” to guard against formation of white rust. After application, it ultimately turns to trivalent chromium. The presence of chromates is detectable by application of diphenyl carbazide. Unfortunately, it is not technically feasible to determine the mass and therefore concentration of Cr+6. We cannot absolutely guarantee that Cr+6 is not present, even when “chem. treat” is not ordered. This particularly applies to spot buys. It is possible that other arrangements could be made via written agreement with our Sales management where a longer-term directed purchase can be made from a specific supplier. We suggest that you refrain from ordering galvanized steels from us if this response is unsatisfactory. We are aware that various non-chromate passivation agents are both under development and in production, and that they reportedly perform well in laboratory conditions. We will monitor this development and revise our position as necessary.

Sincerely yours,

Steel Warehouse Company LLC