

Benign Zinc-plated Coatings

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Corrosion-resistant zinc-plated finishes depend upon a conversion coating, traditionally a chromate, to retard white rust formation. New legislation in the European Union requires the reduction and eventually the elimination of the use of hexavalent chromium in the automotive industry. The surface finishing industry is actively pursuing the quest for alternatives. This paper will present an overview of the options available, including new types of zinc deposits and alternative hexavalent chrome-free post-treatments. Details will be presented of multifunctional systems in which the zinc alloy deposit, conversion coating and topcoat are integrated to create application-specific systems to meet the emerging needs of the industry.

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