



## SPECIALTY STEEL INDUSTRY OF NORTH AMERICA

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### NOTICE

## **Stainless Steel And The European Union Legislation On Waste Electrical And Electronic Equipment**

### *Hexavalent Chromium Is Not a Constituent of Stainless and Specialty Steels*

Stainless steels are iron-based alloys that contain a minimum of approximately 11% chromium by weight. It is this addition of chromium that gives stainless steel its unique corrosion resistant properties through the formation of an invisible and adherent chromium-rich oxide surface film.

The vast majority of chromium in stainless and other specialty steels is in the metallic/elemental form (zero valence state). A small amount of trivalent chromium (oxide) is formed on the surface of specialty steels and is crucial for protecting the alloy from corrosion. Hexavalent chromium, which is associated with certain adverse health effects, is not a constituent of stainless or other specialty steels.

Accordingly, stainless and specialty steels are in conformance with the requirements of the European Union's legislation on waste electrical and electronic equipment ("WEEE"; Directive 2002/96/EC) and its companion directive on the restriction on hazardous substances used in EEE ("ROHS"; Directive 2002/95/EC), as well as EU Directive 2000/53/EC on End-of-Life Vehicles, and the Japanese Green Procurement Initiative.

Please contact Joe Green, environmental counsel to SSINA, if you have any questions or need additional information. Joe can be reached at 202.342.8849 or [jgreen@colliershannon.com](mailto:jgreen@colliershannon.com).