



## **TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETIN**

**Bulletin Number:** DC- 2219

**Date:** 11/14/2007

**Affected Model(s):** All Zinc and Yellow Chromate Plated Product

**Subject:** Plating Content Changes

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In line with our ongoing efforts to keep you informed on product changes that may affect your day to day business activity I wanted to share some detail that has recently been released from our Quality Assurance and Engineering departments. Basically, the zinc and yellow chromate plated items that you have received from us over the years will no longer have that distinguishable "yellow" appearance to them. Some product will have a slight "yellow" hue to them depending on what angle you look at them. As time goes on you will most likely see product that looks more like other zinc and blue bright (more silver in appearance) parts that you may receive. Please keep in mind, other than noticeable changes in color, the parts are the same. We are confident these changes in plating will provide the same quality parts that you are accustomed to receiving from Lincoln. Please read over the attached release for complete details of the changes.

**RE: Zinc & Yellow Chromate Plating-Lincoln QA/Engr.**

*For years when component plating was designated to be zinc and yellow chromate customers could count on receiving a part yellow in color. This type of plating had a better salt spray resistance than a part plated with zinc and blue bright which was silver in color.*

*In recent years, zinc and blue bright plating suppliers changed from a hexavalent plating to a trivalent to meet ever changing international requirements on plating content. The newer zinc and blue brights were indistinguishable from the older hexavalent plating.*

*The European countries (EU) adopted new RoHS regulations/directives prohibiting use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment. One of these prohibited substances is hexavalent chromium used in zinc and yellow chromate. Similar measures are expected in the USA as well, starting in California.*

*Currently platers throughout the world are converting their zinc and yellow process to "Hex free" or "Chromium 6 free" process which have the same performance characteristics as the older hexavalent zinc and yellow but whose color is much different. The new zinc and yellow substitutes may have a slight yellow hue to them or they may look identical to zinc and blue bright parts.*

*Lincoln will continue to receive plated product from suppliers that still use the old process for zinc and yellow plating and from some that use the new type platings. We monitor these parts and platers through salt spray testing and certification reviews to make sure parts conform to the plating performance intended.*

*What does this mean for you, the end user? Over the next few years you will notice more and more parts that used to be zinc and yellow are now silver in appearance. The use of the new substitute zinc and yellow platings will still give the same, and in some cases improved, corrosion resistance that users have come to expect from the traditional zinc and yellow chromate.*

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Lincoln Technical Services at 314/679-4200, Ext. 4782 or fax us at 314/679-HELP (4357).

Regards,

Barry Frankum