

June (6), 1995

A. A. Brunell Electroplating Corp
Jonathan Brunell, President
41 Sutton Lane
Worcester, MA 01603

Dear Mr. Brunell:

This letter is in reponse to your inquiries of April 20 and May 3, 1995. In both instances, your primary concern was directed toward regulation of the metal hydroxide sludge.

As you stated, your company employs three electroplating processes: 1) an acid-zinc on carbon steel electroplating process 2) a passivation of stainless steel process and 3) a phosphate on carbon steel process. In addition, a post plating treatment of "Ebonol Z-80" which contains an isocyanate compound had been used, but has been discontinued. Based on this information, EPA has made the following determinations:

- 1) The wastewater treatment sludge resulting from the acid-zinc electroplating on carbon steel is specifically exempt from the F006 hazardous waste designation, as set out at 40 CFR 261.31.
- 2) With regard to the Ebonol Z-80 treatment process, this cyanide based compound would produce a hazardous sludge. However, as you stipulated in the letter of May 3, the Ebonol Z-80 process has been discontinued and you certified that cyanide will never be present in the metal sludge. Based on the certification, your sludge should not be hazardous from a cyanide viewpoint.
- 3) Lastly, the passivation and phosphate processes which you described in a faxed letter (5/24/95) are acid-related treatments to ferric and stainless steel finished products. The wastewater generated by these processes is adequately treated by your treatment system and discharged to the local POTW. It was also determined that these treatment processes are not listed specifically in any of the solid hazardous waste categories. As a result, you should rely on TCLP test data to determine if your sludge has any toxicity characteristics. Based on EPA's review of your submittal, it was determined that no toxic constituents were present in the metal hydroxide sludge sample analyzed.

In conclusion, it appears that the metal hydroxide sludge generated at your facility is not classified as a RCRA hazardous waste and is not subject to the respective regulations. However, you are reminded that Massachusetts DEP is authorized for base program implementation of RCRA and such they may have state regulations which are more stringent than EPA. It is strongly recommended that you contact them for further guidance regarding

this matter. If you have any questions regarding this determination, please contact Tom Murphy of my staff at 617-223-5522.

Sincerely,

Gary B. Gosbee PE, Chief
Permits and State Programs Section

CC: MADEP Bill Sirull