Training concept

Levels SHEQ, CORE and SITE, operator check under the German TRGS 561

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1 Introduction

For work with asbestos there is a developed system of rules and training. The German TRGS 519 provides the expert-knowledge course under Annex 3 and the course for work of limited extent under Annex 4C, and the German GefStoffV has required the specialist knowledge under § 11a since its amendment. Course providers, examinations and refresher intervals are established and available on the market.

For the formation of Chromium(VI) compounds on thermally stressed chromium-alloyed components, none of this exists so far. **The field is new in occupational and environmental safety.** The German TRGS 561 has been published since 4 May 2026 and describes the situation, while agreed training and recognized proof of knowledge are missing.

We have worked on this formation and its consequences for maintenance, servicing, dismantling and disposal for many years. The packages described here close the gap between the published rules and daily practice in the plant, and they pass on the knowledge that exists.

The packages are submitted to the German employers' liability insurance associations and to the responsible committees, the Committee on Hazardous Substances, whose office is held by the German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Committee of the Federal States for Occupational Safety and Safety Engineering. **The aim is an agreed standard for specialist knowledge and proof of knowledge in work on chromate-contaminated components.**

2 Disclosure

We are not a non-profit organization. The companies and people in the network earn their money with manufacturing, services and training. This belongs on the table before content and prices are discussed.

As the Chromate Experts we have worked on this subject for seven years. The companies and people involved have worked in occupational safety and in high-temperature insulation for decades, and in hazardous-substance remediation and recycling as well.

The uncertainty that arises from a new set of rules is not a business model for us. **Occupational safety and environmental protection come first.** The training builds on the work in the fields named above.

From that work we know the test and analysis methods for detecting Chromium(VI) and the companies behind them. Over the years this has grown into working relationships. Anyone who comes from insulation work, understands the ***in situ*** formation of Chromium(VI) compounds with today's insulation materials and has a supplier network has to deal with substitution. That is why we give recommendations on laboratory methods and on substitution products. They rest on technical judgement and on experience with the suppliers concerned.

The test methods we recommend have proven themselves in many laboratory and field applications. SEEF B.V. in the Netherlands, the laboratory we prefer, has developed its own analysis matrix for the cases described in this concept, which secures reliable results.

The calcium-free and sodium-oxide-free insulation materials of Kavarmat® Sp. z o.o. Sp. k. and Cleansulation® Technology B.V. have been in service in many plants for several years. They stand up to the requirements, and no chromates have formed in the retests carried out so far.

Decontamination, remediation and disposal services are also offered by the partner companies of the Chromate Experts. If an operator check shows that such work is necessary, this creates no obligation to award that work to us in order to obtain the certificate Cr6Checked later on. What we name are recommendations. **Which partner a company awards these tasks to is its own decision.** Where substitution, decontamination or disposal is carried out by other companies and properly completed, we certify those plants with Cr6Checked as well.

3 Subject

The Chromate Experts Training Center teaches the knowledge required for work on chromate-contaminated components and plant parts and certifies it in three levels that build on each other. It is the **author and owner of the programme**. The programme is delivered by Kavarmat® Sp. z o.o. Sp. k., in Dutch by Cleansulation® Technology B.V.; the certificates are issued by the national centers listed in section 11. It addresses companies inside and outside insulation work.

Reports of the German employers' liability insurance associations, in particular BG BAU, BG ETEM and BG Verkehr, name combined heat and power plants, pipework, vehicles, ships and turbines as affected areas. Incineration plants and the ashes arising there come in addition.

4 Structure of the programme

Level	Subject	Duration	Completion	Seal
SHEQ	basics and rules	one day, 6 to 8 hours	written examination	Cr6Qualified, CEQ
CORE	remediation and decontamination	one and a half days	written examination	Cr6Competent, CEC
SITE	supervised execution	by arrangement	assessment on site	Cr6Applied, CEA

CORE requires SHEQ, SITE requires CORE. Whoever has completed SITE carries all three seals. **SHEQ and CORE certify the examined training, SITE the proven execution.** The designation chromate remediation specialist is carried by whoever has completed SITE.

5 Level SHEQ

The level addresses occupational safety specialists, maintenance and servicing staff, purchasing and quality assurance as well as managers in the companies concerned. No technical background is required.

- formation of Chromium(VI) compounds ***in situ*** on chromium-alloyed hot parts where calcium-containing and sodium-oxide-containing insulation materials are used
- formation and handling of Chromium(VI)-containing combustion ashes
- European rules, Directive 2004/37/EU, and the national rules of the course country for Germany, the Netherlands and Poland
- risk assessment and exposure register
- protection regime, low-dust working, personal protective equipment
- substitution check and documentation

The basis of the German version is the TRGS 561 in its version of 4 May 2026, which describes the subject under 3.3.4, goes into detail under 5.9.3 and sets the protection regime under 4.1 and 4.2. The Dutch and the Polish version carry the national chapter of their country.

6 Level CORE

CORE includes the material of SHEQ and deals with execution.

- handling of Chromium(VI)-contaminated components, removal, transport, storage
- chromate-reducing measures and their limits
- rapid tests and wipe tests, sampling, evaluation, documentation
- personal protective equipment, selection and use
- work sequences and work instructions
- sources for material, test equipment and laboratory services

The level includes a practical guide with work instructions and checklists which the participant keeps and uses in the company.

7 Level SITE

SITE takes the graduates of SHEQ and CORE to the site or to the training ground. There a project-related remediation package is planned and carried out together. The execution is assessed against the work instructions from CORE. Extent, place and duration are agreed beforehand.

On completing SITE the participant carries the designation chromate remediation specialist. SHEQ and CORE certify the examined knowledge and do not entitle the holder to that designation.

8 Examination

SHEQ and CORE end with a written question paper for which model answers exist. Each examination has 20 questions, 100 points, 60 minutes. **The pass mark is 70 points.** The three compulsory questions A1, B1 and D1 must be answered correctly regardless of the score. SITE is not examined in writing but assessed through the execution. Failed examinations can be repeated.

9 Prices

Prices per participant, net, plus value added tax. The euro rates apply to the Chromate Experts Academy and to the Cleansulation® Academy, the zloty rates to KavarCert by Kavarmat®, the pound rates in the United Kingdom.

Service	Extent	Academy	KavarCert	UK
SHEQ	one day	450 €	1,500 PLN	400 £
CORE	one and a half days	790 €	2,500 PLN	700 £
SHEQ and CORE booked together	two and a half days	1,090 €	3,500 PLN	950 £
SITE	day rate, up to six people	2,400 €	7,000 PLN	2,050 £
course at the company	day rate, up to ten participants	2,600 €	7,500 PLN	2,200 £
each further participant at the company	per day	150 €	400 PLN	150 £
refresher	half a day	290 €	900 PLN	250 £
operator check	one day per site, with certificate	1,800 €	–	1,550 £
travel and accommodation for the operator check	flat rate	200 €	–	200 £

For SITE and for courses at the company, travel, accommodation and consumables are added. The operator check under section 14 is based on the German TRGS 561 and can be adapted to the regulations of other countries. The pound amounts are converted at 1 € = 0.8368 £ and rounded up to full 50 £.

10 Certificate and seals

The certificate states name, date of birth, module, examination date, designation, basis, state of the rules and certificate number. **It is valid for two years** and is extended by a refresher. The number follows the scheme CEQ-DE-2026-0001 from the abbreviation, the country code of the training center, the year and a serial number, and it can be checked against module, date of issue and validity on a verification page.

German



English



Dutch



Polish



from left to right: SHEQ, CORE, SITE

The seals carry the name of the network and the role on the outside, the word mark, the abbreviation and the module on the inside. Below the module the sign of the word mark stands three times, green for the levels reached and grey for those still open. This is how the holder of CORE is told apart from the holder of SITE. The seal of level SITE carries a second green ring in addition. The seals exist in four languages.

11 Training centers and issuing bodies

Programme, teaching material and seals are the same in all countries. Each country has its own training center with its own name and its own issuing company.

Country	Training center	Issuing company	Address
Germany	Chromatexperten Akademie	Chromatexperten Effinowicz GmbH	Löhrstraße 35 78647 Trossingen
Netherlands	Cleansulation®Academy	Cleansulation® Technology B.V.	Damsluisweg 52 1332 ED Almere
Poland	KavarCert by Kavarmat®	Kavarmat® Sp. z o.o. Sp. k.	Robotnicza 59-61 55-095 Długołęka
United Kingdom	The Chromate Experts UK	The Chromate Experts UK Ltd.	44 Thornyville Villas Plymouth PL9 7LB

Courses in German, English and Polish are delivered by Kavarmat® Sp. z o.o. Sp. k., courses in Dutch by Cleansulation® Technology B.V. For the United Kingdom there is an English version that covers the UK regulations; there The Chromate Experts UK Ltd. issues the invoice and delivers the courses alternating with Kavarmat®.

Course	Delivery	Invoice	Certificate
German	Kavarmat®	Chromatexperten Effinowicz GmbH	Chromatexperten Effinowicz GmbH (DE)
English, EU	Kavarmat®	Kavarmat®	Kavarmat® (PL)
English, UK	The Chromate Experts UK Ltd. alternating with Kavarmat®	The Chromate Experts UK Ltd.	The Chromate Experts UK Ltd. (UK)
Polish	Kavarmat®	Kavarmat®	KavarCert by Kavarmat® (PL)
Dutch	Cleansulation® Technology B.V.	Cleansulation® Technology B.V.	Cleansulation® Technology B.V. (NL)

The existing package SHEQ and CORE of the Cleansulation®Academy with the seals Cr6Aware CTS and Cr6Cleanse CTCE is a system of its own. It is not part of this concept and is kept separate from it.

12 Teaching material and language versions

The common part is the same in all versions, same version number, same structure, same coverage. The material exists in German, English, Dutch and Polish. Each language version carries an additional chapter on the national rules of its country. **The German version is the reference.** Changes are made in one place and carried over into the other versions.

13 Limits of the certificate

The certificate proves attendance of the module and the passed examination. **No officially recognized expert status is connected with it.** The duties of the employer under the national rules of the country concerned remain untouched. The certificate certifies a person. Licences for companies are kept separate from it.

Under section 2 subsection 16 of the German Hazardous Substances Ordinance, a person is qualified who holds the required specialist knowledge for a task set out in that ordinance. The requirements follow from the kind of task. Named are relevant vocational training, work experience or recently performed relevant work, together with attendance of specific further training. **Our levels supply the building block of that specific further training.** The employer judges the other building blocks. The certificate therefore comes with a form, proof of qualification, which the employer fills in for the actual task and keeps with the risk assessment.

14 Operator check under the German TRGS 561

The operator check is a modular service package for **plant managers and owners of combined heat and power plants, generator sets, yachts and transport ships**. These areas are particularly affected by the *in situ* formation of Chromium(VI) compounds. What is assessed is the plant and the work carried out on it, not the knowledge of a person. The levels SHEQ, CORE and SITE certify people, the operator check certifies the state of implementation to the company and the site. It is based on the German TRGS 561. The operator check can be adapted to the regulations of other countries and can therefore be offered there as well.

The operator check is carried out only by people who have completed the levels SHEQ and CORE. That completion is the specific further training within the meaning of section 2 subsection 16 of the German Hazardous Substances Ordinance. Vocational training, work experience and recently performed relevant work are added to it.

The module follows the five pillars of the implementation concept.

- **ChromatCheck**, first assessment of configuration and activities
- **ChromatScan**, assessment of material, surfaces and plant
- **ChromatGuard**, protection concept for maintenance, dismantling, outside companies and service
- **ChromatClean**, cleaning, decontamination and waste handling
- **ChromatStop**, specification and substitution to avoid the formation path

The configuration is assessed from chromium-alloyed material, thermal stress, calcium- containing or sodium-oxide-containing materials, oxygen and air humidity and the dust and residue path. The basis of assessment covers the material of the component, type and condition of the insulation material, operating temperature and heat transfer, ageing by time, cycles, moisture and chemical action, the activity by access, duration and frequency, the dust path with entry routes and deposits, and the documentation of data, assumptions and decisions. Rapid tests and single samples give indications and do not replace the risk assessment.

The assessment leads to the chain of duties with protection concept, area management, dust reduction, personal protective equipment, cleaning, decontamination, packaging, disposal and documentation. Involved are the operator, maintenance and servicing, outside companies and service, occupational safety as well as planning and engineering, each role with its own starting point.

The completed operator check with rule-compliant application of occupational and environmental safety leads to the certificate **Cr6Checked**, abbreviation **CEB**, with the surrounding words **OPERATOR CHECK**. It is issued to the company and the site, is valid for two years and is extended by a further check.

The certificate carries its scope with it: the plant sections checked, the date of the check and the result of the assessment. **What is certified is the assessed condition of the plant at the time of the operator check.** Work in which thermal insulation is dismantled, and which therefore falls under the protection regime of the German TRGS 561, cannot be checked while the plant is running. It is not part of the check and belongs to the teaching material of level SHEQ.

The operator check costs 1,800 € net per site, plus 200 € for travel and accommodation. The price includes two certificates. If no protective measures are required, the operator or owner receives the certificate **Cr6Checked**. In addition there is a SHEQ certificate for the person responsible for the safety of the plant on the side of the operator or owner.



Company

If protective measures are required, we advise on immediate measures within the operator check and go through the interactive risk assessment and the operating instruction together with the company. The certificate Cr6Checked is issued as soon as the measures are in place.

The Chromate Experts

The network and its members.

Company	Fields	Address
Arbeitssicherheit Effinowicz GmbH **Chromatexperten Effinowicz GmbH**	occupational safety, environmental protection	Löhrstraße 35 78647 Trossingen, Germany
Kavarmat® Sp. z o.o. Sp. k.	chromate expertise, chromate remediation, thermal insulation, combustion ashes	Robotnicza 59-61 55-095 Długołęka, Poland
SEEF B.V.	Chromium(VI) analysis	Tolweg 11 4851 SJ Ulvenhout, Netherlands
The Chromate Experts Ltd.	chromate expertise, chromate remediation, thermal insulation, combustion ashes	44 Thornyville Villas Plymouth PL9 7LB, United Kingdom
Laurenat Isoliertechnik GbR	chromate expertise, chromate remediation, thermal insulation	Bürgermeister-Schade-Straße 6 24232 Schönkirchen, Germany

Version history

Version	Date	Change
1.0	October 2026	first edition
1.1	October 2026	qualification placed under section 2 subsection 16 of the German Hazardous Substances Ordinance, surrounding words of levels CEQ and CEC and of the company seal changed, the designation chromate remediation specialist reserved for level SITE, the name Safe Workplace replaced by Cr6Checked, scope of the operator check certificate added
1.2	November 2026	sections 3 and 11: courses delivered by Kavarmat® Sp. z o.o. Sp. k., in Dutch by Cleansulation® Technology B.V., invoice and certificate assigned for each course language, invoice for German courses by Chromatexperten Effinowicz GmbH, training center in the United Kingdom added, sections 9 and 14: operator check can be adapted to the regulations of other countries