



Supporting Flight Excellence

TO OUR NEIGHBORS: PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE LETTER, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT.

Hixson Metal Finishing is located at 829 Production Place in Newport Beach and we have been a part of this community for more than 50 years. We were founded in 1958, right here in Newport Beach. We live and work here and this is our home, as it is the place we do business. This is why we have always been vigilant about reducing the risk of exposure to our employees and our neighbors.

At our facility we employ 148 men and women who work together to manufacture parts and assemblies for the aerospace and defense industry including many high-profile military aircraft programs. In our manufacturing processes we conduct anodizing, testing, plating, coating, and painting operations. Our products have been in equipment that has reached the deepest depths of the oceans, have traveled the roughest terrains, soared to the highest heights and have traveled into outer space and beyond our solar system.

In order to provide the parts and assemblies used in these incredible machines that will pass the test of time and provide safe operation for decades to come, there is an element known as hexavalent chromium and it is used to reduce the chance of corrosion and oxidation. For example, we process large bolts that literally hold the wings onto both military and commercial aircraft. If you have ever flown on an airplane, chances are that our processed parts have helped to keep you in the air and get you to your destination safe and sound. Our processes are also used to protect our war fighters both here and abroad to carry out their missions and return home safely.

The health and safety of our employees and the surrounding community has always been and will always be our top priority. We understand the potential hazards associated with the work performed in our industry, including the use of hexavalent chromium, and we have taken appropriate measures in the past and will continue to take additional measures to mitigate those risks as new information and technologies becomes available.

In the past 12 months alone, Hixson has invested over 1.3 million dollars in facility upgrades and has earmarked many additional millions of dollars to complete construction of new equipment and the reconfiguration of our processing systems including state of the art pollution control systems that will mitigate future risk.

We want you to know that we are working very closely with the SCAQMD to make sure our workers and our neighbors are safe. This is an industry in which it's incumbent upon all of us to work together, side by side with regulators, to reduce the risks to public health and conduct safe operations. We have always maintained an open door policy with all regulators, and are currently working to evaluate and address any potential air emissions within the vicinity of and at the Hixson facility.

Along with our partners in the industry, and with the cooperation of the SCAQMD, we are working diligently to ensure that the pollution-control equipment at Hixson remains **state-of-the-art** in order to protect our employees, the surrounding community and the environment.

We would like to invite you to join us June 18th, where we will be providing you with the most up to date information on our company and our processes. It is important for you to know that we care deeply about this issue and want to make sure that the correct information is provided.

If you have any questions, please contact us at (800) 900-9798.