

TECHNICAL  
BULLETIN

**AAF**

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## ANODISING MSDS

### MSDS and FDA approval

There is no MSDS for anodizing. It is not hazardous material and would therefore not require one. In fact it is not even a material. Anodizing is a process used to form aluminum oxide by electrochemically oxidizing the surface of an aluminum part in a sulfuric acid electrolyte.

Likewise there is no FDA "document" on anodizing. An anodized aluminum surface is composed of aluminum oxide and some aluminum sulfate. Aluminum sulfate is on the FDA GRAS list section 182.1125. In addition all of the aluminum compounds listed by the Select Committee on GRAS Substances are considered GRAS with no reservations. Aluminum oxide is not listed however it is chemically inert and probably the least reactive of all aluminum compounds.

Anodized aluminum is considered "generally recognized as safe" (GRAS) by the FDA but it is not on any of their published lists. However a search of their website will find numerous anodized food processing and biomedical products that have been approved. The following is a quote from a letter, dated June 16, 1994 to Anacote Corporation Long Island City, NY "... FDA considers anodized aluminum which is processed and handled in a manner consistent with good manufacturing practices for food contact articles as generally recognized as safe (GRAS)..." The FDA website states; "The use of a substance is GRAS (generally recognized as safe) because of widespread knowledge among the community of qualified experts, not because of a listing or other administrative activity."  
<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/grasguid.html>

In the 1940's and 50's you could buy butter in anodized dishes and other food products in anodized tumblers. A variety of Hardcoat anodized fry pans and other cookware are currently on the market and we have anodized instruments for laparoscopic surgery, parts for endoscopes, heart pumps, and food processing equipment for many years.

Warning sheets are appropriate for some finished articles, for example, asbestos brake linings-- but not for other things like boxes of breakfast cereal.

If we were sure that an article had no toxic properties, I suppose we could say so in a single sentence, and this headache would be easily dismissed. But if none of us is prepared to individually make a sweeping statement, it's a problem. I guess some sort of industry organization should be making the statements, but I don't know who or how.

Thanks, Rosalie, but I might have to disagree with you because who says they contain hazardous materials? My black anodized (hard anodized and presumably not dyed) Caliphon frying pans come without an MSDS warning of toxic properties or flammability problems and that is for a food surface a family eats off of. If it had come with an MSDS, I'd want my senator and congressperson fired for failing to exercise due oversight over the multitude of new offices they've erected.

Appropriate warnings for hazardous materials are vital and should be encouraged in every way; but I think we're talking about non hazardous materials. MSDS for non hazardous materials is stupid make-work and should be opposed with equal vigor :-)

Just an opinion. Thanks again.

## NOTE

Details contained herewith do not constitute specific advice, merely they are provided as a matter of courtesy and as general information only. You should seek your specialist's advice, to ensure that any information or suggestion meet your specific requirements. Reference should be made to the respective standards for the finish concerned as well as Australian Aluminium Finishing Pty Ltd (AAF) Terms and Conditions of Sale. Latest releases of Australian Standards are available for purchase via the following website; [www.standards.com.au](http://www.standards.com.au)

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