

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Surface electroplating treatments have the characteristic to optimize the efficient use of rare metals. As a matter of fact, when goods made of common alloys are coated with a thin layer of some specific metals, their wear and corrosion resistance is improved and hence they last longer. Many products also gain better aesthetic and functional properties that are greatly appreciated in modern design.

Thanks to the label Infinitely Recyclable ® it is now possible to qualify and improve electroplated products as recyclable. These products make possible the saving of raw materials and therefore they comply with the European policy promoting the sustainable development.

Worth mentioning are the "Integrated Product Policy (IPP)" communication of EC, clearly aimed at modifying and improving the environmental performances of the production systems, and the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA - ISO 14040 series) and ISO standards on environmental certification of products (ISO 14020 series).

The consumption of renewable and subjected to wearing-out natural resources, namely of minerals from which metals are extracted, has been exponentially increasing in the last century, placing humanity in front of the problem whether and how long this rate of development is sustainable.

It is unlikely we can or should give up the use of metals. Therefore we have to do more to ensure that they are used rationally and in ways compatible with the environment.