KEY POINTS

- **Beryllium is a critical material and the material of choice for a variety of industry sectors.**

- **An OEL of 0.2 µg/m^3 has proven to be safe and is scientifically supportable. Our experience has shown that it is generally technologically and economically feasible for governmental agencies, researchers and industries that rely on beryllium containing materials to advance waste minimization, energy efficiency, reliability, and reduced raw material utilization.**

- **Lowering the OEL to below 0.2 µg/m^3 would have a negative effect on availability of products, employment, SMEs, and current research activities. Lowering an OEL to below 0.2 µg/m^3 would severely impact the EU Strategic Materials Initiatives regarding beryllium.**

- **REACH testing results have shown that the current classification for beryllium metal is not correct and needs to be changed.**

- **Beryllium metal does not meet any of the criteria for consideration for the REACH Candidate List.**

A CRITICAL MATERIAL

Beryllium has recently been designated by the European Commission as one of fourteen materials critical to the EU. A raw material is labeled “critical” when the risks for supply shortage and their impacts on the economy are high compared with most of the other raw materials

BERYLLIUM IS IN NATURE

A natural element throughout the globe, beryllium is commonly found in:

Soils and in minerals like coal

In vegetables and foodstuffs

Because beryllium is a naturally occurring element, it is present in many industrial, construction and household products; e.g., ceiling tiles, fertilizers, detergents, charcoal and kitty litter, concrete block, concrete floors, metals and roofing materials that comprise the building’s structure.

APPLICATIONS IN EUROPE

Specific beryllium applications in Europe:

Aerospace and Defence

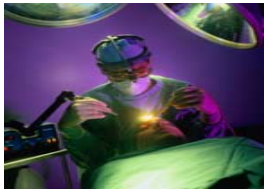

Electronics


Energy

ITER Reactor Oil Drilling


Telecommunications


Medical Industries

BERYLLIUM RESEARCH

Our beryllium worker protection initiatives are based on the knowledge and understanding gained from over thirteen years of cooperative research efforts on the epidemiology related to the various chemical forms of beryllium. We have been responsive to the EU REACH legislation that is designed to provide safety, health, environmental and use information about chemical substances to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). Test results clearly indicated that beryllium metal should not be classified as a skin irritant, an eye irritant, an acute inhalation toxin, a skin sensitizer, or orally toxic, as it is today. OECD compliant genotoxicity tests using beryllium metal powder, covering gene mutation**,** chromosome aberration, DNA repair and its inhibition, did not reveal any genotoxic potential for beryllium metal when extracted under simulated lung conditions. **We have demonstrated that the current classification for beryllium metal is not correct and needs to be changed.**

An OEL no lower than *0.2 µg/m^3 is protective and is technologically and economically feasible* for governmental agencies, researchers and industries that rely on beryllium containing materials to advance waste minimization, energy efficiency, reliability, and reduced raw material utilization.

BERYLLIUM A CRITICAL MATERIAL

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