



Keep Beryllium off
of the Clothing

May 2016

Keep Beryllium Off of the Clothing

- Keeping beryllium off of the clothing is emphasized because beryllium-containing particles and solutions on clothing can be a source of worker exposure and a major path way in which beryllium is carried out of the work area.

Keep Beryllium Off of the Clothing

- Procedures are in place and observed that ensure that clothing; e.g., pants and shirts, are maintained in a visibly clean condition when there is potential for contact with beryllium particulate or solutions.
- When visible soiling may be anticipated, provision for overgarment protection of clothing is made.
- When clothing is inadvertently visibly contaminated, the person will remove the clothing, shower, and don fresh clothing.

Keep Beryllium Off of the Clothing

Here is what you should know:

- Visible beryllium-containing particles and solutions on clothing:
 - Can contribute to personal exposure to airborne beryllium,
 - Can result in beryllium being transported to other work areas potentially contributing to the exposures of co workers, and
 - Can result in beryllium being transported off plant site potentially resulting in exposure to friends and family, the community, service providers, material transporters and down stream processors.

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Here is what you should do:

- Provide reusable or disposable work clothing to employees, as appropriate:
 - shoes and socks, or shoe coverings/booties;
 - gloves;
 - hats or head coverings; and,
 - long sleeve shirts and long pants, or coveralls.
- Incorporate work clothing requirements into procedures and work instructions.
- Do not allow workers to remove reusable or disposable work clothing or personal protective equipment from the plant site.

Keep Beryllium Off of the Clothing

Here is what you should do:

- Implement work practices to keep employee work clothing (including shoes) visibly clean.
- Provide additional personal protective equipment such as impervious gloves, aprons and sleeve coverings wherever the potential exists for beryllium-containing particles and solutions to come into contact with skin or clothing.
- Require employees to change work clothing that has become unexpectedly soiled.
- Require employees to report any incident where work clothing becomes soiled. Investigate and take corrective action as needed.

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Here is what you should do:

- Develop and implement procedures and work instructions to handle work clothing, either reusable or disposable, that prevent exposure to airborne beryllium when handling or laundering the clothing.
- Do not allow employees to shake, brush-off or use compressed air to remove dirt from their work clothing, over-garments protection or personal protective equipment because these activities can cause particles to become airborne. Provide High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) vacuums for removing visible particles from clothing. When employees remove work clothing or over-garment protection that have been worn over personal clothing, require them to keep the potentially dirty side from coming into contact with their personal clothing.

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Here is what you should do:

- Provide separate lockers or a similar method to keep personal clothing separate from work clothing.
- If utilized, inform the commercial laundry in writing of the potential presence of beryllium-containing particles and solutions on the clothing, the exposure risks in handling and cleaning work clothing soiled with beryllium-containing particles and solutions, the Material Safety Data Sheets and the elements of the Beryllium Worker Protection Model. Store and transport work clothing, over-garment protection and personal protective equipment that are removed for laundering, cleaning, maintenance, or disposal in sealed, impermeable bags or other closed, impermeable containers.

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Here is what you should do:

- Label the bags or containers of work clothing, over-garment protection and personal protective equipment with the following:

WARNING
CLOTHING CONTAMINATED WITH BERYLLIUM
AVOID CREATING DUST
DO NOT REMOVE DUST BY BLOWING OR SHAKING
CAN CAUSE SERIOUS LUNG DISEASE

- Develop leading and lagging measures to set goals and priorities to keep clothing visibly clean and to ensure that engineering and work practice controls designed to prevent soiling of work clothing are and remain effective.

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- Over-garment Protection:
 - is used when controls are ineffective in preventing beryllium particulate or process solutions from depositing on the worker
 - can be disposable (Tyvek coveralls, sleeves, booties, etc) or reusable (rubber over boots, coveralls, lab coats, etc.)

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- Over-garment Protection:
 - if disposable, it must be managed in a correct manner
 - if reused, it must be laundered at a frequency that is appropriate for the level of contamination

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