



Beryllium

A. Hazard

1. Exposure to beryllium is a potential health hazard. Repeated or long-term exposure to beryllium may result in beryllium sensitization, chronic beryllium disease, and lung cancer. Beryllium may become airborne during mechanical or hot work on beryllium-copper alloys, and in abrasive blast work areas when grits containing trace amounts of beryllium are used.
2. Contractors shall ensure that their personnel are not exposed to airborne concentrations of beryllium over the applicable OSHA levels and limits.

B. Regulations and Requirements

1. Where there is potential exposure to airborne concentrations of beryllium, OSHA requires each employer to determine the extent of exposure. If airborne exposures are above the Action Level (0.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), OSHA requires the employer to establish and implement a written compliance program and comply with other requirements of 29 CFR 1910.1024.
2. During the NNS pre-approval process (see General Information) each contractor whose employees may be exposed to beryllium above the Action Level (0.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) must provide the NNS Environmental, Health, and Safety Department a copy of their written Beryllium Program. This document must describe the contractor's program for complying with each element of the applicable OSHA standard(s). The contractor shall provide a copy of any changes to the program on an annual basis, such as at the beginning of each year.
3. The contractor shall ensure that unprotected personnel will not be exposed to airborne concentrations of beryllium above the Action Level.