

Oregon OSHA – Adopted Changes to Occupational Exposure to Beryllium in General Industry, Construction, and Maritime

July 2017

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DIVISION 2, GENERAL INDUSTRY

Division 2/Z Beryllium

437-002-2025 Definitions. For the purposes of this subdivision the following definitions apply:

- (1) Action level means a concentration of airborne beryllium of 0.1 micrograms per cubic meter of air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), calculated as an 8-hour TWA.
- (2) Airborne exposure and airborne exposure to beryllium mean the exposure to airborne beryllium that would occur if the employee were not using a respirator.
- (3) Beryllium lymphocyte proliferation test (BeLPT) means the measurement of blood lymphocyte proliferation in a laboratory test when lymphocytes are challenged with a soluble beryllium salt.
- (4) Beryllium work area means any work area containing a process or operation that can release beryllium where employees are, or can reasonably be expected to be, exposed to airborne beryllium at any level or where there is the potential for dermal contact with beryllium.
- (5) CBD diagnostic center means a medical diagnostic center that has an on-site pulmonary specialist and on-site facilities to perform a clinical evaluation for the presence of chronic beryllium disease (CBD). This evaluation must include pulmonary function testing (as outlined by the American Thoracic Society criteria), bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL), and transbronchial biopsy. The CBD diagnostic center must also have the capacity to transfer BAL samples to a laboratory for appropriate diagnostic testing within 24 hours. The on-site pulmonary specialist must be able to interpret the biopsy pathology and the BAL diagnostic test results.
- (6) Chronic beryllium disease (CBD) means a chronic lung disease associated with airborne exposure to beryllium.

(7) Competent person means an individual who is capable of identifying existing and foreseeable beryllium hazards in the workplace and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate or minimize them. The competent person must have the knowledge and ability necessary to fulfill the responsibilities set forth in this subdivision.

(8) Confirmed positive means the person tested has beryllium sensitization, as indicated by two abnormal BeLPT test results, an abnormal and a borderline test result, or three borderline test results. It also means the result of a more reliable and accurate test indicating a person has been identified as having beryllium sensitization.

(9) Emergency means any uncontrolled release of airborne beryllium.

(10) High-efficiency particulate air [HEPA] filter means a filter that is at least 99.97 percent efficient in removing particles of 0.3 micrometers in diameter.

(11) Objective data means information, such as air monitoring data from industry-wide surveys or calculations based on the composition of a substance, demonstrating employee exposure to beryllium associated with a particular product or material or a specific process, task, or activity. The data must reflect workplace conditions closely resembling or with a higher exposure potential than the processes, types of material, control methods, work practices, and environmental conditions in the employer's current operations.

(12) Permissible exposure limit (PEL) means a concentration of airborne beryllium of ~~{0.1}~~ **0.2** µg/m³, calculated as an 8-hour TWA.

(13) Physician or other licensed health care professional [PLHCP] means an individual whose legally permitted scope of practice (i.e., license, registration, or certification) allows him or her to independently provide or be delegated the responsibility to provide some or all of the particular health care services required by 437-002-2034.

(14) Regulated area means an area, including temporary work areas where maintenance or non-routine tasks are performed, where an employee's airborne exposure exceeds, or can reasonably be expected to exceed, either the time-weighted average (TWA) permissible exposure limit (PEL) or short term exposure limit (STEL).

Stat. Auth.: ORS 654.025(2) and 656.726(4).

Stats. Implemented: ORS 654.001 through 654.295.

Hist: OR-OSHA Admin. Order 3-2017, f. 07/07/17, ef. 03/12/18.

OR-OSHA Admin. Order 4-2017, f. 07/31/17, ef. 03/12/18.