



# Aware

PROTECT YOUR  
 EMPLOYEES FROM  
 BERYLLIUM EXPOSURE

## WHAT IS BERYLLIUM?

1. As one of the lightest elements, Beryllium is unique due to its strength and light weight.
2. It's most often employed in alloy or oxide form.

-  Beryllium-copper alloys offer exceptional hardness, electrical and heat conductivity, and resistance to corrosion.
-  Beryllium oxide is an important component in insulators and other ceramic elements in electronic and electrical equipment.

## DANGERS OF BERYLLIUM

Beryllium is extremely toxic to lung tissue. When beryllium materials are processed it can release dust, fume, or mist into the air, which can be inhaled. The lungs may respond to irritation from the particles by producing cells called granuloma, resulting in difficulty breathing, weakness, fatigue, loss of appetite, a higher chance of lung cancer and chronic beryllium disease, even death.



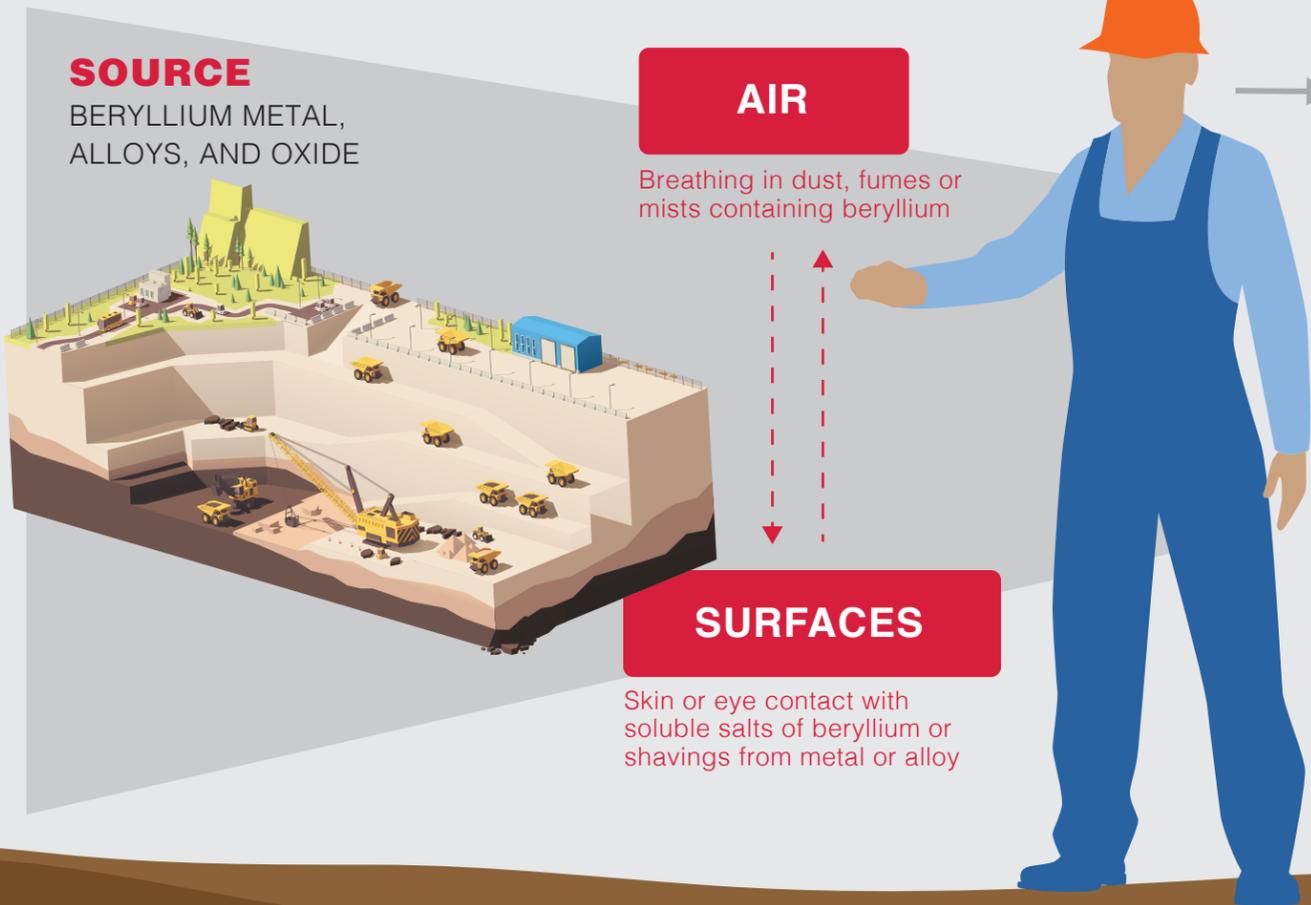
**Granuloma:** small clump of cells that form when lung tissue becomes inflamed

## WHO IS AFFECTED?

- Primary Beryllium Production Workers**
- Workers Processing Beryllium Metal/Alloys/Composites**  
 Examples: Welders and Metal Fabricators
- Secondary smelting and refining**  
 Examples: Recycling electronic and computer parts, metals
- Abrasive Blasters**

## END PRODUCTS CONTAINING BERYLLIUM

- Aerospace
- Automotive
- Defense
- Dental labs
- Electronics
- Energy
- Medicine
- Nuclear energy
- Sporting goods
- Telecommunication
- Ceramic manufacturings



## STAY COMPLIANT AND KEEP YOUR EMPLOYEES SAFE

-  Limit exposure
-  Provide protective equipment
-  Develop exposure control plans
-  Train and educate workers
-  Offer medical examinations

## OSHA UPDATE: Final Rule to Protect Workers from Beryllium Exposure

On January 9, 2017, OSHA published its Final Rule to Protect Workers from Beryllium Exposure, putting limits on Beryllium exposure. The rule's new permissible exposure limits replaces a 40-year-old standard that didn't properly protect workers from beryllium's toxic effects.

The permissible exposure limit and most of the other provisions will come into force on March 12, 2018.

**Its important to take measures now in order to be compliant with the new regulations and to protect your employees.**

United States Department Of Labor, Beryllium <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/beryllium/index.html>

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