

Frequently Asked Questions about OSHA and the Beryllium Standard FAQ 313

I heard that OSHA has issued a new occupational health standard for beryllium. Is that true?

Yes. On January 9, 2017, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published the final Beryllium Standard for General Industry (29 CFR 1910.1024) in the Federal Register.

When will the new standard for beryllium become effective?

The requirements of final Beryllium Standard were to become enforceable on March 12, 2018. However, on March 2, 2018, OSHA [announced](#) a delay in enforcement of the Beryllium Standard to allow sufficient time to complete negotiations and reach a settlement of the legal petitions filed by Materion Brush Inc. and other industry stakeholders. On December 11, 2018, OSHA published the final [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\) for the Beryllium Standard for General Industry](#). The NPRM amends the [Beryllium Standard for General Industry](#) to clarify certain provisions of the standard in compliance with the Settlement Agreement signed by OSHA, Materion Brush Inc. and other industry stakeholders. OSHA stated in the NPRM that they believe that the proposed changes will provide equivalent protection to the current standard and, therefore, while this rulemaking is pending, compliance with the proposed final changes to the standard will be accepted by OSHA as compliance with the standard. Please note that the enforcement dates for installation of change rooms and showers, if applicable; and feasible engineering controls remain unchanged at March 11, 2019 and March 10, 2020, respectively.

Where can I get a copy of the final Beryllium Standard?

A copy of the final Beryllium Standard along with the Frequently Asked Questions that provide clarification to specific elements in the final standard is available at (<https://www.osha.gov/berylliumrule/index.html>).

Where can I get more information and assistance?

Materion will assist companies processing beryllium and beryllium-containing materials who may be affected by providing information and tools to make compliance with the final Beryllium Standard simple and straightforward. An online tool, named the “Guide for Compliance”, has been developed to assist with compliance to the Beryllium Standard for General Industry and is available at www.berylliumssafety.com. This Guide walks users through the elements of the standard to determine what aspects apply to their operations. The Guide includes necessary forms, training materials and information to help users ensure their program is in compliance with the OSHA Standard. OSHA also provides some on-line guidance on its website at <https://www.osha.gov/berylliumrule/index.html>.

Is Materion in support of a standard for beryllium?

Yes. Materion believes having a Beryllium Standard should provide a measure of certainty and predictability about the safe use and handling of beryllium which will help create jobs, ensure the continuity of future beryllium supplies and improve the safety of all those who work with beryllium-containing materials.

Did the permissible exposure limit change?

Yes. The final Beryllium Standard issued by OSHA includes the Permissible Exposure Limits (PEL) of 0.2 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) as an 8-hour Time Weighted Average (TWA) and 2.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as a Short-Term Exposure Limit (STEL) determined over a 15-minute sampling period. The new PEL TWA is 10 times lower than the previous PEL TWA.

What else is different?

In addition to the change in the PELs, the final Beryllium Standard also contains ancillary provisions and requirements similar to other substance-specific OSHA standards including exposure assessment, designated work areas, written compliance plans, engineering and work practices, personal protective equipment, hygiene practices, housekeeping, medical surveillance, medical removal, hazard communication and recordkeeping.

Who will be affected by the new standard for beryllium?

Most companies processing beryllium oxide ceramics (beryllia) that have adopted and applied the Materion Beryllium Worker Protection Model should not need to make major changes in the practices and procedures currently utilized. The final Beryllium Standard for General Industry applies to facilities processing beryllium-containing materials in ways that have the potential to cause exposure to beryllium above specified levels. This would generally include those operations and facilities processing beryllia in ways that produce airborne particulate such as, but not limited to, lapping, polishing and grinding. The standard does not apply to work operations using materials or products containing 0.1% or less of beryllium by weight where there is objective data demonstrating that employee exposure to beryllium will remain below the Action Level, which is 0.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as an 8-hour TWA.

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact your sales representative; our sales department at +1-216-486-4200; or, the Product Safety Hotline at 1-800-862-4118 (in the U.S.) or +1-216-383-4019 (outside the U.S.). This document, as well as other product specific safety data information, can be found at www.materion.com. Additionally, information on the Beryllium Worker Protection Model and process specific safety guidance can be found in the Interactive Guide to Working Safely with Beryllium and Beryllium-containing Materials at www.berylliumsafety.com.