

## (b) Definitions. As used in 1910.1024:

**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 time-weighted average (TWA).

**Airborne exposure** and **airborne exposure to beryllium** mean the exposure to airborne beryllium that would occur if the employee were not using a respirator.

**Assistant Secretary** means the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, United States Department of Labor, or designee.

**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.

**Beryllium sensitization** means a response in the immune system of a specific individual who has been exposed to beryllium. There are no associated physical or clinical symptoms and no illness or disability with beryllium sensitization alone, but the response that occurs through beryllium sensitization can enable the immune system to recognize and react to beryllium. While not every beryllium-sensitized person will develop CBD, beryllium sensitization is essential for development of CBD.

**Beryllium work area** means any work area where materials that contain at least 0.1% beryllium by weight are processed either: (1) during any of the operations listed in Appendix A of this Standard; or (2) where employees are, or can reasonably be expected to be, exposed to airborne beryllium at or above the action level.

**CBD Diagnostic Center** means a medical diagnostic center that has a pulmonologist or pulmonary specialist on staff and on-site facilities to perform a clinical evaluation for the presence of chronic beryllium disease (CBD). The CBD diagnostic center must have the capacity to perform 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 pulmonologist or pulmonary specialist must be able to interpret the biopsy pathology and the BAL diagnostic test results. **NOTE:** This can be any pulmonary specialist knowledgeable in interpreting biopsy pathology and BAL diagnostic testing results.

**Chronic beryllium disease (CBD)** means a chronic granulomatous lung disease caused by inhalation of airborne beryllium by an individual who is beryllium-sensitized.

**Confirmed Positive** means the person tested has had two abnormal BeLPT test results, an abnormal and a borderline test result, or three borderline test results obtained within the 30 day follow-up test period required after a first abnormal or borderline BeLPT test result. It also means the result of a more reliable and accurate test indicating a person has been identified as having beryllium sensitization.

**Contaminated with beryllium and beryllium-contaminated** means contaminated with dust, fumes, mists, or solutions containing beryllium in concentrations greater than or equal to 0.1 percent by weight.

**Dermal contact with beryllium** means skin exposure to soluble beryllium compounds or solutions containing beryllium in concentrations greater than or equal to 0.1 percent by weight or to visible dust, fumes, or mists containing beryllium in concentrations greater than or equal to 0.1 percent by weight. The handling of beryllium materials in non-particulate solid form that are free from visible dust containing beryllium in concentrations greater than or equal to 0.1 percent by weight is not considered dermal contact under the standard.

**Director** means the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or designee.

**Emergency** means any occurrence such as, but not limited to, equipment failure, rupture of containers, or failure of control equipment which may or does result in an uncontrolled and unexpected release of beryllium that presents a significant hazard.

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

**Objective data** means information, such as air monitoring data from industry-wide surveys or calculations based on the composition of a substance, demonstrating airborne 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 airborne exposure potential than the processes, types of material, control methods, work practices, and environmental conditions in the employer's current operations. [Note: Although the standard permits the use of objective data when performing an exposure assessment, it is prudent to collect air samples from jobs/tasks processing beryllium-containing materials in your own shop environment, to verify the proper exposure judgements are being made.](#)

**Physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP)** means an individual whose legally permitted scope of practice (i.e., license, registration, or certification) allows the individual to independently provide or be delegated the responsibility to provide some or all of the health care services required by paragraph [\(k\)](#) of this standard.

**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).

**This standard** means this beryllium standard, 29 CFR 1910.1024.