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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. OSHA-2019-0010]

#### Occupational Exposure to Beryllium and Beryllium Compounds in General

#### Industry; Extension of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Approval of Information Collection (Paperwork) Requirements

**AGENCY:** Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

**ACTION:** Request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** OSHA solicits public comments concerning the proposal to extend the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval of the information collection requirements specified in the Occupational Exposure to Beryllium and Beryllium Compounds in General Industry.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted (postmarked, sent, or received) by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

#### **ADDRESSES:**

Electronically: You may submit comments and attachments electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, which is the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Follow the instructions online for submitting comments.

Docket: To read or download comments or other material in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Documents in the docket are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index; however, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download through the websites. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection through the OSHA Docket Office. Contact the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-2350 (TTY (877) 889-5627) for assistance in locating docket submissions.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and OSHA docket number (OSHA-2019-0010) for the Information Collection Request (ICR). OSHA will place all comments, including any personal information, in the public docket, which may be made available online. Therefore, OSHA cautions interested parties about submitting personal information such as social security numbers and birthdates.

For further information on submitting comments, see the “Public Participation” heading in the section of this notice titled “**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Seleda Perryman, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor; telephone (202) 693-2222.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

The Department of Labor, as part of the continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent (i.e., employer) burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing information collection requirements in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program ensures that information is in the desired format, reporting burden (time and costs) is minimal, the collection instruments are clearly understood, and OSHA’s estimate of the information collection burden is accurate. The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act) (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) authorizes information collection by employers as necessary or appropriate for enforcement of the OSH Act or for developing information regarding the causes and prevention of occupational injuries, illnesses, and accidents (29 U.S.C. 657). The OSH Act also requires that OSHA obtain such information with minimum burden upon employers, especially those operating small businesses, and to reduce to the maximum extent feasible unnecessary duplication of effort in obtaining information (29 U.S.C. 657).

The purpose of these requirements specified by the beryllium standards in General Industry help protect workers from harmful elements when exposed to permissible exposure limit (PEL) of beryllium and beryllium compounds in the workplace. The information collection requirements contained in the general industry standard are described below.

Paragraph (d)(2) contains the performance option where the employer must assess the 8-hour time weighted average (TWA) exposure and the 15-minute short-term exposure for each employee on the basis of any combination of air monitoring data and objective data sufficient to accurately characterize airborne exposure to beryllium. Employers do not have to conduct initial exposure monitoring if they rely on objective data that would satisfy the exposure assessment requirements contained in this standard. Paragraph (d)(3) says the employer must perform initial monitoring to assess the 8-hour TWA exposure and the 15-minute short-term exposure for each employee on the basis of one or more personal breathing zone air samples that reflect the airborne exposure of employees on each shift, for each job classification, and in each work area and the employer is required to do periodic monitoring when the most recent exposure monitoring indicates that airborne exposure is at or above the action level but at or below the TWA PEL, the employer must repeat such monitoring within six months of the most recent monitoring. Where the most recent exposure monitoring indicates that airborne exposure is above the TWA PEL or above the short-term exposure limit (STEL), the employer must repeat such monitoring within three months of the most recent 8-hour TWA exposure monitoring. Paragraph (d)(4) requires the employer to reassess airborne exposure whenever a change in the production, process, control equipment, personnel, or work practices may reasonably be expected to result in new or additional airborne exposure at or above the action level or STEL, or when the employer has any reason to

believe that new or additional airborne exposure at or above the action level or STEL has occurred.

In paragraph (f)(1)(i) the employer is required to establish, implement, and maintain a written exposure control plan and what information and procedures are included in the plan. Paragraph (f)(1)(ii) requires the employer to review and evaluate the effectiveness of each written exposure control plan at least annually and update it as necessary. Also, in paragraph (f)(1)(iii) the employer must make a copy of the written exposure control plan accessible to each employee who is, or can reasonably be expected to be, exposed to airborne beryllium in accordance with OSHA's Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records (Records Access) standard (29 CFR 1910.1020(e)).

Paragraph (g)(2) requires the employer to provide respiratory protection for the selection and use of respirators, medical evaluations of employees required to use respirators, respirator fit testing procedures for tight-fitting respirators, and procedures for proper use of respirators in routine and reasonably foreseeable emergency situations.

Paragraph (h)(3)(iii) requires the employer to inform in writing the persons or the business entities who launder, clean, or repair the personal protective clothing or equipment required by this standard of the potentially harmful effects of airborne exposure to and dermal contact with beryllium and that the personal protective clothing and equipment must be handled in accordance with this standard. This provision is intended to reduce exposure to beryllium for employees handling beryllium-contaminated materials by providing employers and employees handling these materials the information necessary to protect employees from beryllium exposure.

Under paragraph (k)(1) the employer is required to make medical surveillance available at no cost to the employee, and at a reasonable time and place, to each employee who: (A) Is reasonably expected to be exposed at or above the action level for more than 30 days per year; (B) Shows signs or symptoms of chronic beryllium disease

(CBD) or other beryllium-related health effects; or (C) Is exposed to beryllium during an emergency; or (D) Most recent written medical opinion required by paragraph (k)(6) or (k)(7) recommended periodic medical surveillance.

In paragraph (k)(5) of medical surveillance, the employer is required to ensure that the employee receives a written medical report from the licensed physician within 45 days of the examination (including any follow-up beryllium lymphocyte proliferation test (BeLPT) required under paragraph (k)(3)(ii)(E) of this standard) and that the physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP) explains the results of the examination to the employee. The requirement for a written medical report ensures that the employee receives a record of all findings. In paragraph (k)(6) of medical surveillance the employer is required to obtain a written medical opinion from the licensed physician within 45 days of the medical examination and what must be contained in the written medical opinion. Under paragraph (k)(7) of medical surveillance, when being referred to the CBD Diagnostic Center, the employer is required to provide an evaluation at no cost to the employee at a CBD diagnostic center that is mutually agreed upon by the employer and the employee. The examination must be provided within 30 days of: (A) The employer's receipt of a physician's written medical opinion to the employer that recommends referral to a CBD diagnostic center; or (B) The employee presenting to the employer a physician's written medical report indicating that the employee has been confirmed positive or diagnosed with CBD or recommending referral to a CBD diagnostic center. The employer must ensure that the employee receives all written medical reports from the CBD diagnostic center that contains all the information required in paragraph (k)(5)(i), (ii), (iv), and (v), and that the PLHCP explains the results of the examination to the employee within 30 days of the examination. Also, the employer is required to obtain a written medical opinion from the CBD diagnostic center within 30 days of the medical examination and ensure that each employee receives a copy of the

written medical opinion from the CBD diagnostic center within 30 days of any medical examination performed for that employee.

Under paragraph (l)(1) of medical removal the employer is required to remove an employee that is eligible for medical removal if the employee works in a job with airborne exposure at or above the action level and either: (i) the employee provides the employer with a written medical report indicating a confirmed positive finding or CBD diagnosis or a written medical report recommending removal from airborne exposure to beryllium in accordance with paragraph (k)(5)(v) or (k)(7)(ii) of the standard; or (ii) the employer receives a written medical opinion recommending removal from airborne exposure to beryllium in accordance with paragraph (k)(6)(v) or (k)(7)(iii) of the standard.

In paragraph (m)(2) the employer is required to post warning signs at each approach to a regulated area. Paragraph (m)(3) requires the employer to label each bag and container of clothing, equipment, and materials contaminated with beryllium.

In paragraph (m)(4)(iv) the employer is required to make a copy of this standard and its appendices readily available at no cost to each employee and designated employee representative(s).

Under paragraph (n) recordkeeping, the employer is required to make and maintain records for the air monitoring data, objective data, medical surveillance, and training. Access to these records must be made available upon request for examination and copying to the Assistant Secretary, the Director, each employee, and each employee's designated representative(s) in accordance with the Record Access standard (29 CFR 1910.1020).

## **II. Special Issues for Comment**

OSHA has a particular interest in comments on the following issues:

- Whether the proposed information collection requirements are necessary for the proper performance of the agency's functions to protect workers, including whether the information is useful;
- The accuracy of OSHA's estimate of the burden (time and costs) of the information collection requirements, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- The quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden on employers who must comply; for example, by using automated or other technological information, and transmission techniques.

### **III. Proposed Actions**

OSHA is requesting that OMB extend the approval of the information collection requirements contained in the Occupational Exposure to Beryllium and Beryllium Compounds in General Industry. The agency is requesting an adjustment decrease in burden from 82,822 to 32,587 hours, a difference of 50,235 hours. This decrease in burden is due to removing rule familiarization from this ICR and reducing the rate of non-compliance for employers.

OSHA will summarize the comments submitted in response to this notice and will include this summary in the request to OMB to extend the approval of the information collection requirements.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Title:* Occupational Exposure to Beryllium and Beryllium Compounds Standard in General Industry.

*OMB Control Number:* 1218-0267.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profits; Federal Government; State, Local, or Tribal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 4,538.

<i>Number of Responses:</i>	52,956.
<i>Frequency of Responses:</i>	On occasion.
<i>Average Time per Response:</i>	Varies.
<i>Estimated Total Burden Hours:</i>	32,587.
<i>Estimated Cost (Operation and Maintenance):</i>	\$6,365,761.

#### **IV. Public Participation – Submission of Comments on this Notice and Internet**

##### **Access to Comments and Submissions**

You may submit comments in response to this document as follows: (1) electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, which is the Federal eRulemaking Portal; or (2) by facsimile (fax), if your comments, including attachments, are not longer than 10 pages you may fax them to the OSHA Docket Office at 202-693-1648. All comments, attachments, and other material must identify the agency name and the OSHA docket number for the ICR (OSHA-2019-0010). You may supplement electronic submission by uploading document files electronically.

Comments and submissions are posted without change at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Therefore, OSHA cautions commenters about submitting personal information such as social security numbers and dates of birth. Although all submissions are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download from this website. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection and copying at the OSHA Docket Office. Information on using the <http://www.regulations.gov> website to submit comments and access the docket is available at the website's "User Tips" link.

Contact the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-2350, (TTY (877) 889-5627) for information about materials not available from the website, and for assistance in using the internet to locate docket submissions.

#### **V. Authority and Signature**

James S. Frederick, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, directed the preparation of this notice. The authority for this notice is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506 et seq.) and Secretary of Labor's Order No. 8-2020 (85 FR 58393).

Signed at Washington, DC, on March 5, 2024.

**James S. Frederick,**  
*Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.*