

Assistant Secretary for Occupational  
Safety and Health  
U.S. Department of Labor

Dec 10, 1975

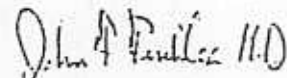
FROM : Director, National Institute for  
Occupational Safety and Health

SUBJECT: Update of NIOSH Criteria Document on Beryllium

As a follow-up to my communication of September 29, 1975 to Mr. Marshall Miller, the attached information is submitted to your office in the hope that it will be useful in development of a standard for controlling occupational exposures to beryllium.

The information submitted involves a review of not only new information but also puts into more proper perspective the entire issue of beryllium's carcinogenic potential. Based on our analysis of the available information we are of the opinion that beryllium poses a carcinogenic risk to man. Occupational exposures should, therefore, be reduced to a minimum through the use of appropriate engineering and/or personal protective controls.

Evaluation of currently available sampling and analytical methods is also attached. It should be noted that a question has been raised regarding the sampling method. If the concern over volatile beryllium compounds is correct, the sampling procedure might, in some cases, give results lower than that to which the worker is actually exposed. At the present time, we don't feel this is a serious enough problem to warrant delay of the standard. NIOSH will evaluate the significance of this potential problem and will provide information as it becomes available.

  
John F. Finklea, M.D.

Attachments

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