

American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists®
Adopts TLV for beryllium of 0.05 µg/m³

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists® (ACGIH) Board of Directors voted to adopt a new TLV-TWA for beryllium of 0.05 µg/m³ (2009 TLVs® and BEIs®, American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, Cincinnati, OH).

This action by ACGIH has no direct regulatory impact on Department of Energy (DOE) requirements for beryllium health and safety. Rulemaking procedures require that Agencies wishing to adopt consensus standards, such as the TLVs, must identify the specific version of any standard that will become part of the rule.

DOE incorporated the 2005 TLVs in 10 C.F.R 851 “Worker Safety and Health”. DOE also adopted the OSHA beryllium Permissible Exposure Limit of 2.0 µg/m³, and established an action level of 0.2 µg/m³, in 10 C.F.R. 850 “Chronic Beryllium Disease Prevention Program.”

In each of these cases, the allowable levels are above the new ACGIH TLV of 0.05 µg/m³ and those Departmental regulatory limits remain unchanged. However, DOE contractors may wish to review their contracts and DOE-approved chronic beryllium disease prevention program (CBDPP), or worker safety and health program (WSHP), to evaluate their commitments with respect to the “latest version” of the ACGIH TLVs.

DOE, as an agency, does not restrict DOE offices and contractors from negotiating contract provisions or modifying CBDPPs or WSHPs to adopt or remove the new ACGIH TLV.