

From: mike.brisson@srs.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 12:04 PM
To: mike.brisson@srs.gov
Subject: ACGIH TLV Update

Members and guests of the Beryllium Health and Safety Committee:

I have received word today from ACGIH, as some of you also have, that they have adopted the following provisions from their Notice of Intended Change (NIC) for beryllium:
- A Threshold Limit Value - Time Weighted Average (TLV-TWA) of 0.05 micrograms per cubic meter
- Skin and SEN notations
- A1 carcinogenicity classification.

ACGIH did NOT adopt the short term exposure limit (STEL) value, which had been proposed as 0.2 micrograms per cubic meter.

The document I received did not state whether the TLV-TWA is based on inhalable particulate matter, as was proposed in the NIC. I have contacted ACGIH to see if that information is available. The formal updated ACGIH documentation for beryllium will not be available until approximately March 16, 2009.

A roundtable regarding the new ACGIH TLV is planned for the April 1-2 BHSC meeting at Savannah River Site, Aiken, SC. If you plan to attend and would be interested in participating as a roundtable panelist, please let me know. Additionally, the US-UK Joint Working Group (JOWOG) 30-1-1 on Beryllium Facilities Safety, led by Tom Ford, has been involved with this topic and may also be discussing it at its March 31 meeting, also at SRS. In addition, I am trying to line up a researcher involved in studies on inhalation patterns in slow-moving air. If I am able to obtain funding to pay for the researcher's travel, she has agreed to present her research to us. She is a graduate student under Dr. Jim Vincent, one of the world's foremost aerosol scientists.

I will also mention, for those who have not heard about it already, that there has been a recent beryllium incident at Los Alamos; visit their web site (www.lanl.gov) and you will find a link to the LANL press release. We are hoping to have an update at the April BHSC meeting on this as well.

Mike Brisson
BHSC Chair

Mike Brisson, Analytical Laboratories
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions LLC
Savannah River Site, Aiken, SC 29808
+1-803-952-4400
Fax: +1-803-952-3063
Pager +1-803-725-7243, #18744
