



Toxicological Profile for Beryllium

September 2023



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

DISCLAIMER

Use of trade names is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Public Health Service, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

FOREWORD

This toxicological profile is prepared in accordance with guidelines* developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The original guidelines were published in the *Federal Register* on April 17, 1987. Each profile will be revised and republished as necessary.

The ATSDR toxicological profile succinctly characterizes the toxicologic and adverse health effects information for these toxic substances described therein. Each peer-reviewed profile identifies and reviews the key literature that describes a substance's toxicologic properties. Other pertinent literature is also presented, but is described in less detail than the key studies. The profile is not intended to be an exhaustive document; however, more comprehensive sources of specialty information are referenced.

The focus of the profiles is on health and toxicologic information; therefore, each toxicological profile begins with a relevance to public health discussion which would allow a public health professional to make a real-time determination of whether the presence of a particular substance in the environment poses a potential threat to human health. The adequacy of information to determine a substance's health effects is described in a health effects summary. Data needs that are of significance to the protection of public health are identified by ATSDR.

Each profile includes the following:

- (A) The examination, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic information and epidemiologic evaluations on a toxic substance to ascertain the levels of significant human exposure for the substance due to associated acute, intermediate, and chronic exposures;
- (B) A determination of whether adequate information on the health effects of each substance is available or in the process of development to determine levels of exposure that present a significant risk to human health of acute, intermediate, and chronic health effects; and
- (C) Where appropriate, identification of toxicologic testing needed to identify the types or levels of exposure that may present significant risk of adverse health effects in humans.

The principal audiences for the toxicological profiles are health professionals at the Federal, State, and local levels; interested private sector organizations and groups; and members of the public.

This profile reflects ATSDR's assessment of all relevant toxicologic testing and information that has been peer-reviewed. Staffs of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other Federal scientists have also reviewed the profile. In addition, this profile has been peer-reviewed by a nongovernmental panel and was made available for public review. Final responsibility for the contents and views expressed in this toxicological profile resides with ATSDR.



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*Legislative Background

The toxicological profiles are developed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA or Superfund). CERCLA section 104(i)(1) directs the Administrator of ATSDR to "...effectuate and implement the health related authorities" of the statute. This includes the preparation of toxicological profiles for hazardous substances most commonly found at facilities on the CERCLA National Priorities List (NPL) and that pose the most significant potential threat to human health, as determined by ATSDR and the EPA. Section 104(i)(3) of CERCLA, as amended, directs the Administrator of ATSDR to prepare a toxicological profile for each substance on the list. In addition, ATSDR has the authority to prepare toxicological profiles for substances not found at sites on the NPL, in an effort to "...establish and maintain inventory of literature, research, and studies on the health effects of toxic substances" under CERCLA Section 104(i)(1)(B), to respond to requests for consultation under section 104(i)(4), and as otherwise necessary to support the site-specific response actions conducted by ATSDR.

VERSION HISTORY

Date	Description
September 2023	Final toxicological profile released
January 2022	Draft for public comment toxicological profile released
June 2015	Addendum to the toxicological profile released
September 2002	Final toxicological profile released
April 1993	Final toxicological profile released
December 1988	Final toxicological profile released

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These experts collectively have knowledge of toxicology, chemistry, and/or health effects. All reviewers were selected in conformity with Section 104(I)(13) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended.

ATSDR scientists review peer reviewers' comments and determine whether changes will be made to the profile based on comments. The peer reviewers' comments and responses to these comments are part of the administrative record for this compound.

The listing of peer reviewers should not be understood to imply their approval of the profile's final content. The responsibility for the content of this profile lies with ATSDR.

CONTENTS

DISCLAIMER	ii
FOREWORD	iii
VERSION HISTORY	v
CONTRIBUTORS & REVIEWERS	vi
CONTENTS.....	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF TABLES.....	x
CHAPTER 1. RELEVANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH	1
1.1 OVERVIEW AND U.S. EXPOSURES	1
1.2 SUMMARY OF HEALTH EFFECTS.....	2
1.3 MINIMAL RISK LEVELS (MRLs).....	7
CHAPTER 2. HEALTH EFFECTS.....	11
2.1 INTRODUCTION.....	11
2.2 DEATH	43
2.3 BODY WEIGHT.....	48
2.4 RESPIRATORY.....	49
2.5 CARDIOVASCULAR.....	76
2.6 GASTROINTESTINAL.....	77
2.7 HEMATOLOGICAL	77
2.8 MUSCULOSKELETAL	80
2.9 HEPATIC.....	81
2.10 RENAL	83
2.11 DERMAL	85
2.12 OCULAR	87
2.13 ENDOCRINE.....	87
2.14 IMMUNOLOGICAL	88
2.15 NEUROLOGICAL.....	96
2.16 REPRODUCTIVE	96
2.17 DEVELOPMENTAL.....	97
2.18 OTHER NONCANCER.....	98
2.19 CANCER.....	99
2.19.1 Cancer in Humans	99
2.19.2 Cancer in Animals.....	119
2.20 GENOTOXICITY	120
2.21 MECHANISM OF ACTION	125
2.21.1 Mechanisms of Toxicity Associated with Respiratory Effects	127
CHAPTER 3. TOXICOKINETICS, SUSCEPTIBLE POPULATIONS, BIOMARKERS, CHEMICAL INTERACTIONS.....	138
3.1 TOXICOKINETICS.....	138
3.1.1 Absorption.....	139
3.1.2 Distribution	143
3.1.3 Metabolism.....	147
3.1.4 Excretion	147
3.1.5 Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK)/Pharmacodynamic (PD) Models	151

3.1.6	Animal-to-Human Extrapolations	151
3.2	CHILDREN AND OTHER POPULATIONS THAT ARE UNUSUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE	152
3.3	BIOMARKERS OF EXPOSURE AND EFFECT	163
3.3.1	Biomarkers of Exposure	164
3.3.2	Biomarkers of Effect	167
3.4	INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER CHEMICALS	172
CHAPTER 4. CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL INFORMATION		175
4.1	CHEMICAL IDENTITY	175
4.2	PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES	176
CHAPTER 5. POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN EXPOSURE		180
5.1	OVERVIEW	180
5.2	PRODUCTION, IMPORT/EXPORT, USE, AND DISPOSAL	182
5.2.1	Production	182
5.2.2	Import/Export	186
5.2.3	Use	186
5.2.4	Disposal	187
5.3	RELEASES TO THE ENVIRONMENT	188
5.3.1	Air	189
5.3.2	Water	194
5.3.3	Soil	194
5.4	ENVIRONMENTAL FATE	195
5.4.1	Transport and Partitioning	195
5.4.2	Transformation and Degradation	198
5.5	LEVELS IN THE ENVIRONMENT	200
5.5.1	Air	201
5.5.2	Water	205
5.5.3	Sediment and Soil	208
5.5.4	Other Media	212
5.6	GENERAL POPULATION EXPOSURE	218
5.7	POPULATIONS WITH POTENTIALLY HIGH EXPOSURES	221
CHAPTER 6. ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE		225
6.1	INFORMATION ON HEALTH EFFECTS	225
6.2	IDENTIFICATION OF DATA NEEDS	227
6.3	ONGOING STUDIES	241
CHAPTER 7. REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES		242
CHAPTER 8. REFERENCES		245
APPENDICES		
APPENDIX A. ATSDR MINIMAL RISK LEVEL WORKSHEETS		A-1
APPENDIX B. LITERATURE SEARCH FRAMEWORK FOR BERYLLIUM		B-1
APPENDIX C. USER'S GUIDE		C-1
APPENDIX D. QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS		D-1
APPENDIX E. GLOSSARY		E-1
APPENDIX F. ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SYMBOLS		F-1

LIST OF FIGURES

1-1. Health Effects Found in Animals and Humans Following Inhalation Exposure to Beryllium.....	6
1-2. Health Effects Found in Animals Following Oral Exposure to Beryllium.....	7
1-3. Summary of Sensitive Targets of Beryllium – Inhalation	8
1-4. Summary of Sensitive Targets of Beryllium – Oral	9
2-1. Overview of the Number of Studies Examining Beryllium Health Effects.....	14
2-2. Levels of Significant Exposure to Beryllium–Inhalation	23
2-3. Levels of Significant Exposure to Beryllium–Oral	34
2-4. Hypothesized Pathway for Cellular Processing of Beryllium-Containing Particles from Phagocytosis to Antigen Presentation	129
2-5. Steps and Genetic Variants in the Development of Beryllium Sensitization, CBD, and More Severe Forms of Disease	132
2-6. Pathogenesis of CBD.....	136
5-1. Number of NPL Sites with Beryllium Contamination.....	180
6-1. Summary of Existing Health Effects Studies on Beryllium by Route and Endpoint	226

LIST OF TABLES

1-1. Minimal Risk Levels (MRLs) for Beryllium.....	10
2-1. Levels of Significant Exposure to Beryllium–Inhalation	15
2-2. Levels of Significant Exposure to Beryllium–Oral	29
2-3. Levels of Significant Exposure to Beryllium–Dermal	39
2-4. Summary of Epidemiological Studies Evaluating Mortality	44
2-5. Beryllium Sensitization and Chronic Beryllium Disease in Occupationally Exposed Populations	51
2-6. Lung Inflammation Severity Scores in Mice Exposed to Beryllium Metal, Beryllium Oxide, or Beryllium Aluminum	95
2-7. Beryllium Facilities Included in Studies Evaluating Cancer Endpoints.....	100
2-8. Summary of Epidemiological Studies Evaluating Cancer Endpoints.....	101
2-9. Genotoxicity of Beryllium and Its Compounds <i>In Vitro</i>	121
3-1. Percentage of Lung Deposition as a Function of MMAD	140
3-2. Clearance Mechanisms for Less Soluble and Insoluble Forms of Beryllium.....	148
3-3. Histologic Characteristics of Beryllium-induced Disease in Mice and Humans.....	152
3-4. Risk of Beryllium Sensitization and CBD by HLA-DPB1 Glu69 Genotype in Beryllium Workers	158
3-5. Risk of Beryllium Sensitization and CBD by HLA-DPB1 Glu69 Genotype in Former and Current Beryllium Workers	159
4-1. Chemical Identity of Beryllium and Beryllium Compounds.....	175
4-2. Physical and Chemical Properties of Beryllium and Beryllium Compounds.....	177
5-1. Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Beryllium.....	184
5-2. Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Beryllium Compounds	185
5-3. Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Beryllium	189
5-4. Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Beryllium Compounds.....	190
5-5. National Emission Inventory (NEI) Total National Emissions for Beryllium Estimated by Sector 2017	193
5-6. Precipitation of Beryllium Compounds in a Neutral (pH 6.5–9.5) Environment.....	198

5-7. Lowest Limit of Detection for Beryllium Based on Standards.....	200
5-8. Summary of Environmental Levels for Beryllium	200
5-9. Beryllium Levels in Water, Soil, and Air of National Priorities List (NPL) Sites	201
5-10. Summary of Annual Beryllium (Total Suspended Particulate) Concentrations (ng/m ³) Measured in Ambient Air at Locations Across the United States	201
5-11. Ambient Indoor Air Monitoring Studies for Beryllium.....	203
5-12. Ambient Outdoor Air Monitoring Studies for Beryllium.....	203
5-13. Industrial Site Outdoor Air Monitoring Studies for Beryllium	204
5-14. Summary of Concentrations of Beryllium (µg/L) Measured in Surface Water and Groundwater Across the United States.....	205
5-15. Summary of Groundwater Monitoring Data for Beryllium (µg/L).....	207
5-16. Summary of Beryllium Detections (µg/L) in Drinking Water.....	207
5-17. Summary of Concentrations of Beryllium (mg/kg) Measured in Ambient Sediment and Soil Across the United States.....	209
5-18. Summary of Concentrations of Beryllium (mg/kg) Measured at Industrial and Urban Sites Across the United States.....	210
5-19. Summary of Concentrations of Beryllium (µg/kg) Measured in Biota Samples Across the United States.....	212
5-20. Concentration of Beryllium in Aluminum and Beverage Samples	214
5-21. Beryllium Content of Various Fresh Foods.....	215
5-22. Beryllium Content of Various Fruits and Fruit Juices.....	217
7-1. Regulations and Guidelines Applicable to Beryllium	242