

Quarterly

NEWS LETTER

SUMMER ISSUE 2020

BeST

Beryllium Science & Technology Association



Dear Valued Readers,

Welcome to the Summer edition 2020 of the Quarterly Newsletter.

In this edition, BeST will look into the future under a new EU-UK partnership and how it may affect our businesses.

We also proudly report on the role of our Voluntary Product Stewardship Program, which we branded “Be Responsible” and the great success of our first “Working Safely with Beryllium” webinar. We reach out to our customers to help ensure that we all apply best practices in safe handling of our unique material.

Do not forget to also visit our website, where you will find details about upcoming webinars and events.

We wish you a very pleasant reading.

Kind Regards,

Prof Dr. Andreas Köster, Chairman of BeST

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BeST holds first Be Responsible Webinar

On 25 June, BeST hosted with great success its first Be Responsible Webinar – Working Safely with Beryllium. During the webinar, Ted Knudson, Vice President of BeST and Director of Regulatory Affairs and Product Stewardship of Materion Corporation, and Dr. Patrick Levy, Director of the Health Business Line and of the Health and Product Risk Agency at SOCOTEC, discussed beryllium and specific industrial hygiene practices to help ensure worker protection.

During his presentation, Dr. Levy touched upon the different regulatory frameworks, REACH and OSH, their deliverables and the interfaces between them. He also elaborated on the establishment process of the binding EU occupational exposure limit (BOEL) for beryllium under the CMD Directive. Dr. Levy also gave an overview of the different regulatory provisions and guidelines for training that exist to ensure proper worker protection.

Ted Knudson elaborated more specifically on the Be Responsible – Beryllium Voluntary Product Stewardship Program (VPSP), which was launched in 2017. He explained that the program gives guidance on the potential health risks related to the exposure to airborne beryllium and that it describes the main sources of exposures. Mr. Knudson also demonstrated how the Be Responsible program can



The Webinar Speakers :

Ted Knudson CIH

Director, Regulatory Affairs and Product Stewardship, Materion Corporation

Dr. Patrick Levy

Director of the Health Business Line and of the Health and Product Risk Agency, SOCOTEC

be used to improve workplace safety through the Beryllium Worker Protection Model. Additionally, he gave an overview of the different control strategies, i.e. the measures to be implemented to control dust emission and dispersion for the most frequent operations, within the Voluntary Product Stewardship Program.

More information on the program is available [here](#). New sessions will be organized in the next months in English, but also in German and French.

BeST prepares for UK exit from the EU market

The UK is currently moving ahead with developing its Chemical Laws, following its exit from the European Union. The UK government will implement a completely independent chemicals registration system, which will have consequences for the beryllium sector. To answer the challenges that lie ahead for the beryllium industry, BeST is engaging in promoting a future regulation of the UK market that is effective and workable.

WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

Within the UK's chemicals registration system, UK-held EU REACH registrations will be grandfathered in and continue to have access to the UK market and have 120 days to provide initial information. Importers of substances from EU-based registrants will have 180 days to provide UK authorities with some primary information. After the transition period, importers have two years to provide all technical information on their substance. Registrations will be overseen by the UK's the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which will become the equivalent body to ECHA. The UK REACH system is expected to be live from 1 January 2021.

The UK chemicals registration system will contain many similarities to EU REACH but will operate completely independently. Moving too far away from EU REACH could be risky. It may cause deregulatory EU chemicals regulation, trans-boundary pollution, and a reduced global power of EU REACH. Close cooperation between both parties appears to be the best option; otherwise, chemicals will become subject to dual registrations and costs. EU REACH registration is a very time-consuming and costly procedure and many companies would not like to repeat it.

Considering the thorough and costly EU REACH evaluation process of beryllium and the high level of acceptance of the EU evaluation outcome, BeST expects that the UK will take the REACH results on board. BeST will monitor the process and keep you updated!

BeST members exchange views with i2a on

Voluntary Product Stewardship Strategies

In May 2020, BeST members had the opportunity to exchange views with Caroline Braibant, Secretary General of the International Antimony Association (ia2), on the Product Stewardship Strategy of i2a.

During the BeST 2020 Annual General Meeting, Caroline Braibant shared her experiences of promoting a product stewardship program.

She explained how i2a has developed an anti-mony product stewardship program and elaborated on the mission, strategic objectives and scope of the strategy. BeST has encountered many of the same challenges as i2a in the development of the “Be Responsible” Beryllium Voluntary Product Stewardship Program and found the presentation very useful. BeST and i2a shared best practices and look forward to future collaboration.

French and German version of the “Be Responsible” website

now online!

In May 2020, BeST launched the French and German versions of the “Be Responsible” website, our website dedicated to the Beryllium Voluntary Product Stewardship Program. Other translations will follow soon!

The “Be Responsible” Beryllium Voluntary Product Stewardship Program gives guidance to companies and organizations that work with beryllium and beryllium-containing materials and aims to ensure worker protection throughout Europe. With the translated versions of the “Be Responsible” website,

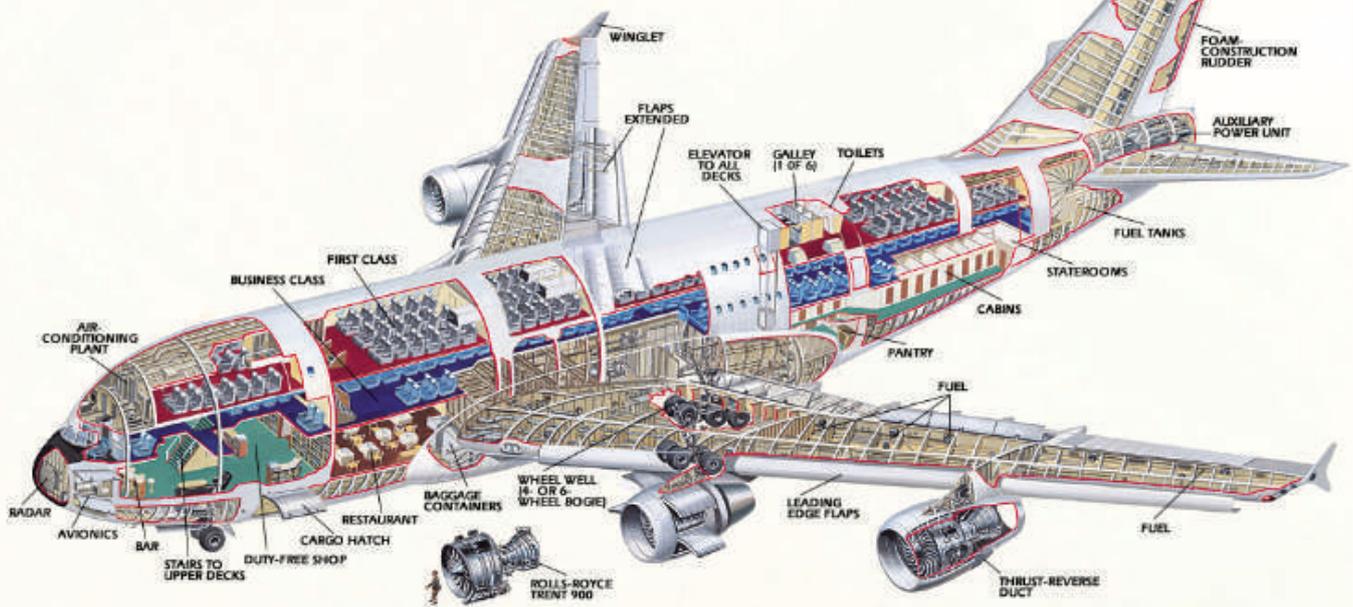
BeST wants to expand the reach of the program and make it more accessible. The French website (berylliumsecurite.fr) and German website (www.berylliumsicherheit.de) are now online and more translations (Spanish and Italian) will follow soon!

The initiative fits in BeST's broader effort to make its worker protection guidance more visible. On 25 June, BeST will also host a “Working Safely with Beryllium” webinar – see article above.



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Criticality of Beryllium

We are patiently waiting for the EU to publish its Critical Raw Materials (CRM) list 2020. All raw materials that potentially qualify for this list have been reviewed and the list should have been published in March. However, the publication date was postponed, and no new deadline was set.

Every three years, the EU carries out an assessment of raw materials important to the European economy to reflect production, market and technology developments. Beryllium has held its spot on the list since the list's creation in 2011 and will very likely continue to do so in the 2020-2023 period.

Beryllium is primarily used as an alloying element in copper in electronic and telecommunication equipment to improve its mechanical properties without impairing the electric conductivity. The substance is also widely used in automotive electronics and

components, aerospace components and energy applications among others.

For instance, beryllium containing alloys are present in important components of aircrafts. Copper-beryllium alloys are used in the connectors for aircraft electrical and electronic systems. For example, and airbus A380 uses 530km of wiring, 40,300 connectors and 2.9 million terminals.

Beryllium's chemical, mechanical and thermal properties make it an ideal material to use in high technology equipment, like satellites or solar panels, for which low weight and high rigidity are important qualities.

In satellites, beryllium is used to make light and strong mirrors that have an outstanding thermal performance. In solar panels, the connectors contain copper-beryllium alloys and the substance is used in the photo-voltaic cells to resist the high temperatures, thermal expansion, corrosion and thermal stress relaxation.

Recent developments related to the EU's green transition and digitalization have caused an increase in the demand for beryllium. Given this growing importance of beryllium in European society, it's very likely that beryllium will be included on the CRM list 2020.

DID YOU KNOW?

fun facts about beryllium



Beryllium salts have a sweet taste. The element was once called Glucinium (Gi) (from the Greek word "glikys", which means sweet) due to its flavor.

However, do not taste this at home!

CuBe vs Co

Copper Beryllium (CuBe₂ i.e. 2% Beryllium in Copper) is six times stronger than Copper alone.

4 countries

Only four countries (United States, China, Japan and Kazakhstan) are involved in the industrial production of beryllium-containing materials.

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The BeST website keeps you informed with a 'Latest news' section, where readers can follow the latest news and features on beryllium.

The news section complements the wealth of information already on the site, on issues such as environment, health and safety.

Get the latest news on **BeST online**.

BeST can also be found on Facebook. 'Like' **the page** and be notified when there is news from our association. Photos of events organised by BeST can also be found on our **Facebook page**.

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