Quarterly **NEWS LETTER**

AUTUMN ISSUE 2019

BeST

Beryllium Science & Technology Association

Dear Valued Readers,

Welcome to the Autumn edition 2019 of the Quarterly Newsletter.

In this edition, BeST will look into the recent EU report supporting the continued use of beryllium in electronics as well as share with you BeST's newly developed infographic on beryllium's lifecycle and benefits.

In addition, we will touch upon BeST's past and future conference interventions on environmental legislation and industry success stories of best practices.

We wish you a very pleasant reading.

Kind Regards,

Prof Dr. Andreas Köster, Chairman of BeST

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Beryllium receives EU support
for use in electronics

The European Comission receives a report supporting the continued use of Beryllium in electrical and electronic equipment (EEE). Following an assessment conducted using the new RoHS methodology, a technical report was issued recommending that beryllium and compounds can continue to be used in EEE and should not be restricted. Industry strongly supports this recommendation as confirmation of the material's strategic value for many industry sectors due to its unique combination of properties that are unmatched by any other material. The continued use of beryllium in EEE is beneficial to end users in terms of product performance, reliability and product lifecycle.

Oeko Institut, the external consultant contracted by the European Commission to conduct the assessment of seven substances – including beryllium and compounds – for potential restriction under the Directive on the restriction of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS) in the frame of Study Pack 15, issued its final assessment for beryllium and compounds on 26 September 2019.

Following the health and safety data and usage information submitted by BeST and other stakeholders to the two stakeholderconsultations (June 2018 and December 2018),

Oeko Institut has ultimately recognised the significant economic and technical importance of beryllium in EEE and has therefore recommended no EU restriction of beryllium under RoHS.

These conclusions confirm that the presence of beryllium in EEE does not represent a significant health risk to consumers (end-users) of EEE or impact to the environment. Workers processing the material are effectively protected through the adoption of the new EU binding occupational exposure limit and the implementation of industry best practices via the Be Responsible voluntary product stewardship program (available at **www.berylliumsafety.eu**).

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The presence of beryllium in EEE does not represent a significant health risk to consumers (end-users) of EEE or impact to the environment.

Beryllium metal, beryllium-containing alloys and beryllium oxide ceramics, with the associated combination of beneficial and exceptional properties, can therefore continue to be used in EEE. It should be noted that beryllium is mainly used in form of metal as alloying element in copper in EEE (2% max beryllium by weight). Copper beryllium alloys present the best possible combination of desirable properties in terms of mechanical performance and electrical conductivity among all available copper alloys and are making it essential to the European connector industry.

Oeko Institut's published review of beryllium and compounds including their recommendations is available **here.**

BeST fully endorse Oeko Institut's recommendation and has provided additional comments to address several errors and incomplete statements contained in the report. BeST's comments are available **here.**

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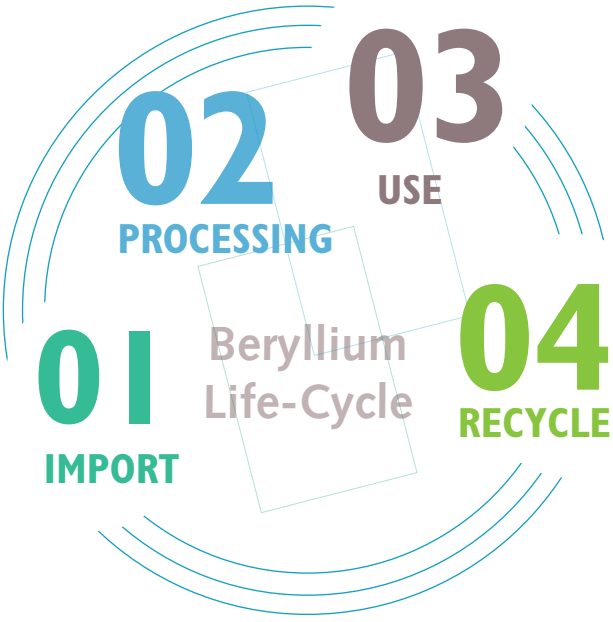
Don't know about beryllium's contribution to circularity and sustainability?

Look no further!

BeST has prepared an interesting and informative infographic on beryllium to best describe its unmatched properties and benefits, its lifecycle and how it contributes to circularity and sustainability.

Beryllium is a unique material with extraordinary properties and unmatched benefits.

In particular, beryllium allows miniaturization and reduces raw material utilization, increases product longevity, performance and reliability as well as improves performance of life-saving technologies.



Beryllium's life cycle consists of four main stages:

01. Import, as there is no production of beryllium in the EU.

02. Processing, where workers are protected by the recently adopted EU binding occupational exposure limit and by the industry voluntary product stewardship. Consequently, workers are protected at the processing phase and end-of-life management.

03. Use of articles by consumers.

4. Recycle, where there is no negative impact on the environment, on the health of workers or on the purity of recycled copper given that maximum 2% of beryllium in copper beryllium alloys is found in consumer products.

In order to best illustrate beryllium's contribution to circularity and sustainability, BeST has prepared and shared an interesting infographic.

Check it out here.

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BeST participates in industry workshop on environmental policy developments

BeST recently attended the 47th Meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Legislation hosted by Fraunhofer IZM in Germany. The industry workshop offered the opportunity to discuss beryllium and the latest environmental policy developments involving the material.

On 18 June 2019, BeST gave a presentation at the 47th Meeting of the Working Group of Environmental Legislation at Fraunhofer IZM. The industry workshop gathered key players of the German electronics industry.

BeST's member, Mr. Peter Mählmann, addressed the floor of participants introducing Beryllium, its unique properties and key applications.

Key focus of BeST's intervention was the latest environmental policy developments potentially impacting beryllium. In particular, Mr. Mählmann illustrated the EU regulatory situation concerning beryllium – CLP regulation, adoption of the EU binding occupational exposure limit and RoHS. The audience was reminded that beryllium is not a Substance of Very High Concern (SVHC), nor restricted under REACH or any other Directive related to its uses including RoHS for EEE.

Mr. Mählmann also addressed the success of the Be Responsible Voluntary Product Stewardship Program – **www.berylliumsafety.eu.**

BeST extends its gratitude to Fraunhofer IZM for the invitation and possibility to discuss beryllium with the key industry players of the German electronics sector.

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Be Responsible
Beryllium Product Stewardship

Sharing the success of the Be Responsible Program

In November 2019, BeST will be presenting the Be Responsible Voluntary Product Stewardship Program success story to the German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health – BAuA – in the frame of an event dedicated to best practices.

BeST is honoured to have received an invitation from the German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health – BAuA – to talk about the Be Responsible Voluntary Product Stewardship Program as an example of industry's voluntary commitment to create Good Practice Guides.

The event will see interventions from substance representatives illustrating the best practices put in place by industry.

The Be Responsible Voluntary Product Stewardship Program was launched in March 2017 with the aim of formally engaging employers, workers, trade unions and governmental authorities in a cooperative arrangement that seeks to continuously improve workers safety during the production and processing of beryllium-containing materials. As the developer of the Be Responsible program, BeST is proud to be official partner of the EU-OSHA campaign "Healthy Workplace" (European Agency for Safety and Health at Work).

BeST looks forward to sharing the Be Responsible experience at the event and learning of other successful and inspiring best practices implemented by industry.

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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