

# Quarterly NEWS LETTER

WINTER ISSUE  
2019/2020

## BeST

Beryllium Science & Technology Association



Dear Valued Readers,

**Welcome** to the winter edition 2019/2020  
of the **Quarterly Newsletter**.

This edition will be dedicated entirely to YOU – our allies and supporters. Your constant support and encouragement are at the core of all our great success stories of 2019.

We would never have been able to achieve all that we have without your help and cooperation.

We look forward to working with all of you in this new year.

Welcome 2020, looking forward to the even greater successes you will bring.

*Kind regards,*

*Prof Dr. Andreas Köster,  
Chairman of BeST*

# Table of Contents

**Beryllium, electronics & the EU** 03

**Beryllium industry and EU cooperate to protect workers** 05

**Success of the Be Responsible Program** 06

**What to expect in 2020?** 07

**BeST on Twitter and LinkedIn** 08

# Beryllium, electronics & the EU

In September 2019, the European Union acknowledged beryllium's strategic value in electrical and electronic equipment (EEE). Following the assessment conducted by Oeko Institut, the external consultant contracted by the European Commission to conduct the evaluation of beryllium and compounds for potential restriction under the Directive on the restriction of certain hazardous substance in EEE (RoHS), the continued use of beryllium in EEE was recommended in light of the benefits the material brings to end users in terms of product performance, reliability and product lifecycle.

## The European Union acknowledged beryllium's strategic value in electrical and electronic equipment.

This outcome is the result of the valuable support of all our allies who contributed to the RoHS assessments through their own contributions and supported the continued use of beryllium, highlighting its unmatched properties and its exceptional contribution to the performance of EEEs.

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 in the form of a draft final report.

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](http://www.berylliumsafety.eu)).

## ... beryllium, electronics & the EU

This great success has been achieved thanks to the health and safety data and usage information submitted by BeST and other stakeholders to the two stakeholder consultations (June 2018 and December 2018). BeST and industry stakeholders have also submitted final comments on the draft final report in support of the conclusions of the external consultant to continue to use beryllium in EEE.

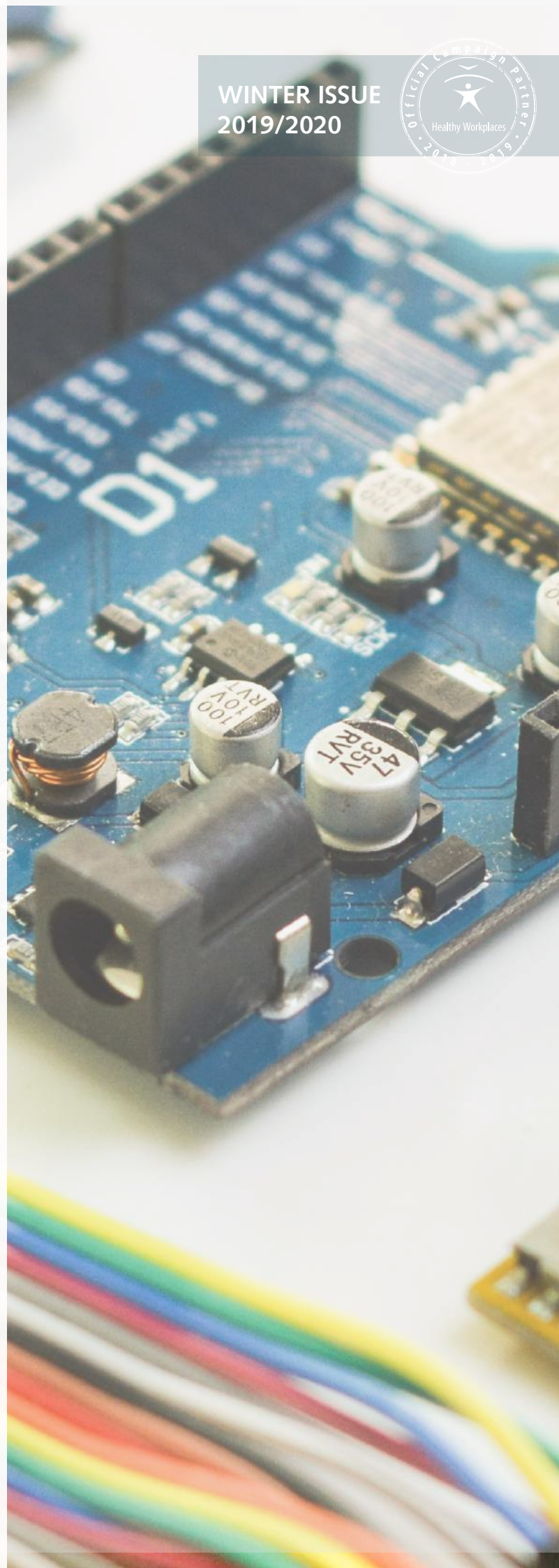
Over 25 contributions from industry stakeholders, representatives of beryllium users throughout the entire supply chain of EEEs, have expressed support to the continued use of beryllium. BeST extends all its gratitude to those who contributed to the consultations and stressed the important role of beryllium in EEE.

### Additional information:

Oeko Institut's published review of beryllium and compounds, including their recommendations, is available [here](#).

### Contributions to the three stakeholder consultations can be found below:

- June 2018
- December 2018
- November 2019



# Beryllium industry and EU cooperate to protect workers

**After several years of thorough study and consideration, the new EU worker protection standard for beryllium was adopted in June 2019. Industry welcomes the new standard which will guarantee legal certainty, harmonised protection of workers and a level playing field in the EU. Once again, the achievement of a balanced and protective worker standard for beryllium is the result of an intensive cooperation between BeST, the EU institutions, Member States, social partners and industry.**

The new worker protection standard for beryllium and its inorganic compounds, laid down in the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive, features a binding OEL of 600 ng/m<sup>3</sup> – inhalable fraction – 8-hour Time Weighted Average - for a seven-year transitional period. Industry welcomes this OEL, which will apply until 2026, as it is in line with BeST's recommendation, represents the best scientific evidence, and is economically and technically feasible for companies.

The balanced and protective worker standard is the result of the intensive five-year long discussions which took place between BeST, EU representatives, Member State authorities, social partners and industry representatives.

The scientific evidence, socio-economic evaluations, risk and risk management assessments, and industry perspectives brought to the table from all of the participating parties have contributed to the development of the beryllium worker protection standard.

BeST extends its gratitude to all those who have brought their contributions to the discussions and have fostered a constructive dialogue with the aim of protecting beryllium workers and the beryllium industry.

In order to assist companies to meet the new standard, BeST has developed its Be Responsible Voluntary Product Stewardship Programme, addressed in the following article.

## **Additional Information:**

Read BeST's official press release on the beryllium worker protection standard [here](#).

The EU Official Journal with the publication of the beryllium worker protection standard is available [here](#).

Learn more on the Be Responsible Program [here](#).

WINTER ISSUE  
2019/2020



The Be Responsible Programme, developed by the beryllium industry, was created in 2017 with the aim of continuously improving workers safety during the production and processing of beryllium-containing materials. Its founding principles are in line with the EU beryllium worker protection standard adopted in June 2019 and the implementation of its guidelines will assist companies to meet the new standard.

## Success of the Be Responsible Program

The continued support of our partners and allies in sharing and disseminating information on the Be Responsible Program is of fundamental importance to guarantee the best outreach of the program and attract the attention of all players of the beryllium value chain. In 2020, BeST will be reinforcing even more its network and actively cooperating with social partners to extend the outreach of the Be Responsible Program.

These eight elements explain how to protect workers who are processing beryllium and the adequate controls to implement in order to allow workers to safely manage the material. Since the risk is by inhalation, the key principle is to control dust emission and dispersion. Risk and exposure assessment, exhaust ventilation systems, working clothes, personal protective equipment, hygiene measures, access control in the beryllium work area, housekeeping and regular training are the main pillars of the model. These best practices can be applied for other metals or substances which feature a similar risk by inhalation of fine particles.

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.

For each element, videos with avatars to emulate real life health and safety situations are provided on the appositive website [www.berylliumsafety.eu](http://www.berylliumsafety.eu)

The Be Responsible Programme utilises a Recommended Exposure Guideline (REG) of 600 ng/m<sup>3</sup> (Inhalable sampling method) which has proven effective in protecting all workers from developing chronic beryllium disease (CBD).

Once again, the success and incredible results of the Be Responsible Program, attracting the attention of social partners, SMEs and workers all over the EU, are largely attributable to our allies and partners who have actively supported the program and shared its content since its launch in March 2017.

In addition, the Be Responsible Programme utilises a comprehensive Beryllium Worker Protection Model which is based on eight elements that have been developed from research to practice experiences. This model is not a one size fits all approach and end users may need all or only part of this model in their workplace to effectively protect workers

In 2020, BeST will be reinforcing even more its network and actively cooperating with social partners to extend the outreach of the Be Responsible Program.

### Additional information:

Read more on the Be Responsible Program [here](#).

# What to expect in 2020?

Several important policy actions, regulatory interventions and events will take place in 2020. In particular, BeST has marked the following milestones on its calendar for Q1 and Q2 2020:



## 2020 EU CRM List

Beryllium is a Critical Raw Material (CRM) since the first list in 2011 due to its Economic Importance and Supply Risk. The European Commission has considered that Beryllium has a particularly high value for the EU economy and is not substitutable. Beryllium is also critical in other regions outside EU including the US and Japan.



## EU Industrial Strategy

Beryllium and its alloys have unique properties and are crucial in many applications essential to the digital, energy and ecological transition including electric vehicles, solar panels, energy generations (i.e. ITER), satellites, and telecommunications. Beryllium is not restricted under REACH, RoHS or any other Directive related to its uses.



## Circular Economy Action Plan

Those in the beryllium industry is particularly involved in the recycling of its production scraps. Beryllium is mainly used as alloying element in copper (2% max) and has no negative impact on the purity of recycled copper. Moreover, beryllium is necessary for recycling magnesium-containing light alloys in that a light addition of beryllium in the melt prevents molten magnesium from catching fire.

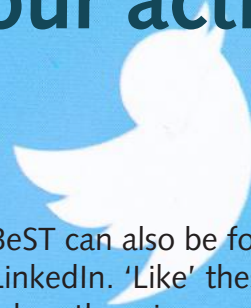


## Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

Following the Risk Management Option Analysis (RMOA) issued by the BAuA in November 2016, Beryllium has not been included in the list of Substances of Very High Concern. The risk is limited to the workplace and controlled by the harmonized EU Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) and the Be Responsible Program.

See BeST comments on New Circular Economy Action Plan [here](#).

# Want to be even more connected with BeST and all our activities?



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

The new 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 and LinkedIn. 'Like' these pages to be notified when there is news from our association.

Photos of events organised by BeST can also be found on our Facebook page.

CHECK US OUT

