

# OSHA Trade Release

---

U.S. Department of Labor  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Office of Communications  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)  
For Immediate Release

March 2, 2018  
Contact: Office of Communications  
Phone: 202-693-1999

## **OSHA Will Enforce Beryllium Standard Starting in May**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced today that it will start enforcement of the [final rule on occupational exposure to beryllium](#) in general, construction, and shipyard industries on May 11, 2018. This timeframe will ensure that stakeholders are aware of their obligations, and that OSHA provides consistent instructions to its inspectors. The start of enforcement had previously been set for March 12, 2018.

In January 2017, OSHA issued new comprehensive health standards addressing exposure to beryllium in all industries. In response to feedback from stakeholders, the agency is considering technical updates to the January 2017 general industry standard, which will clarify and simplify compliance with requirements. OSHA will also begin enforcing on May 11, 2018, the new lower 8-hour permissible exposure limit (PEL) and short-term (15-minute) exposure limit (STEL) for construction and shipyard industries. In the interim, if an employer fails to meet the new PEL or STEL, OSHA will inform the employer of the exposure levels and offer assistance to assure understanding and compliance.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).