

## OSHA's Final Beryllium Rule: What it Means For You

On Friday, OSHA [released](#) the final Beryllium Rules for the Construction and Shipyard Sectors. While as an organization we don't agree with all of the provisions because they impose burdensome costs on all abrasive blasters without any scientific data that shows it will increase worker safety, abrasive blasters will still be able to continue using the best media based on their needs.

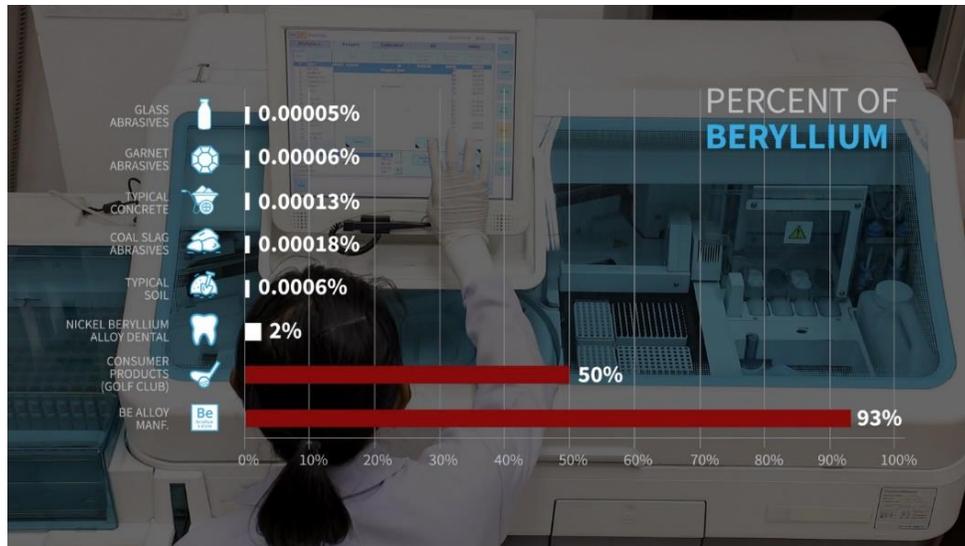
So, what does this announcement mean for you?

It is important to understand that OSHA's rule **reaches across the abrasive blasting industry as a whole.**



As our [independent studies from Exponent labs confirms](#), abrasive materials across the industry, including crushed glass, garnet, Starblast staurolite sand, coal slag, copper slag and aluminum oxide, **all contain trace amounts of beryllium.**

The **only** exemption to the rule is for jobsites where exposures will remain below the extremely low statutory action level (of 0.1 micrograms per cubic meter averaged over 8 hours) **“under any foreseeable conditions.”** In addition to the blast media itself, OSHA has noted that beryllium can also be present in surfaces, coatings and substrates. Because abrasive blast media across the industry contains trace amounts of beryllium, and because beryllium can also be present in the surfaces being blasted, no abrasives manufacturer can tell you that their product won't trigger the action level under any foreseeable conditions.



Blanket statements from OSHA about specific abrasive materials containing more or less beryllium than other abrasives are irrelevant under this rule and have caused unnecessary confusion in the industry. Again, a jobsite is only exempt if exposures will remain below the very low action level under any foreseeable conditions, and no manufacturer can guarantee that. This means that the choice of blast media is not affected by the rule and abrasive blasters remain free to use the media that best serves their job.

With the issuance of these final rules, it is time for the industry to recognize that the Beryllium Rule impacts each of us equally and come together to champion sensible regulations that ensure worker health and environmental protection while preserving abrasive blasters' freedom to operate.

Learn more at <http://theabma.com/>