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**Rationale:** In a 1992 beryllium lymphocyte proliferation test (BeLPT) survey at a beryllium ceramics facility, 5.9% (8/136) of workers had at least 2 abnormal tests and were classified as beryllium-sensitized (BeS). The facility used engineering to reduce airborne levels; despite this, 9.5% (7/74) of workers hired after 1992 were BeS in a 1998 survey. Over the next 2 years, the facility implemented a comprehensive preventive program, including increased respiratory and dermal protection and particle migration control, and instituted serial BeLPTs in new workers.

**Methods:** Starting in 2000, new workers were tested with the BeLPT at hire and 3, 6, 12, 24, and 48 months (mos) of employment. Tests were analyzed at a single laboratory; abnormal results were repeated there and at a second lab. We classified workers with 2 abnormal results as BeS. We compared workers hired from 2000-4 with workers hired from 1993-8 for sensitization per person-mos of employment. We compared 2000-4 and 1996-9 beryllium airborne personal sampling data.

**Results:** From 1/2000-12/2004, 93 new workers with normal BeLPT on hire had at least 1 post-hire BeLPT. The 93 worked for a mean of 16 mos (range 3-48 mos). One worker was classified as BeS, for a sensitization rate of 0.66 per 1000 person-mos of employment. Our comparison group consisted of 70 workers hired from 1993-8 who worked for a mean of 16 mos (range 3-55 mos). In the 1998 survey, 7 were classified as BeS, or 6.4 per 1000 person-mos of employment, 10 times greater than the 2000-4 group. The OSHA permissible exposure limit was likely to have been exceeded in 2% of the 2000-4 and 1% of the 1996-9 samples.

**Conclusions:** A comprehensive preventive program reduced BeS in new workers.

*The findings and conclusions in this abstract have not been formally disseminated by NIOSH and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.*

**Session Info:** [\*\*] Poster Discussion Session, [A96] CURRENT TOPICS IN OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL LUNG DISEASES

**Session Time:** 1:30 PM - 4:15 PM

**Presentation Date:** Sunday, May 21, 2006

**Presentation Time:** 1:30 PM

**Room:** Room 29 C/D (Upper Level), San Diego Convention Center

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