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Beryllium-Copper Alloy

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Beryllium-Copper Alloy*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C45883.

A white colored, crystalline, inorganic compound composed of beryllium and copper in which beryllium increases the alloys thermal and electrical conductivity. This alloy emits toxic fumes of beryllium oxides upon heating. Beryllium-copper alloy is used in the electronics industry for numerous applications. Inhalation exposure to its dust and fumes irritates the nose, throat and lungs and can cause pneumonitis. Prolonged exposure can result in a chronic beryllium disease called berylliosis causing granuloma and fibrosis formation in the lungs. Beryllium is associated with an increased risk of developing lung cancer. (NCI05)