

Revere Copper Products, Inc.



U.S. EPA APPROVES REGISTRATION OF ANTIMICROBIAL COPPER ALLOYS

Copper, brass and bronze products can play key role in killing pathogens—including superbug MRSA—responsible for hospital- and community-acquired infections

Rome, NY—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved the registration of antimicrobial copper alloys, with public health claims, acknowledging that copper, brass and bronze are capable of killing harmful, potentially deadly bacteria. Copper is the first solid surface material to be recognized by the EPA as being antimicrobial and permitted by them to make public health claims.

The registration, which permits the marketing of antimicrobial copper alloy products with public health claims, was granted to the Copper Development Association Inc. based upon independent laboratory testing under EPA-approved protocols. These test results demonstrated that copper, brass and bronze are effective against a number of disease-causing bacteria, among them Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), commonly known as a “superbug.”

Companies producing and marketing the new antimicrobial materials will need to register with the EPA, as well as with associated regulatory bodies in the states in which they do business.

According to Michael O’Shaughnessy, President and CEO of Revere Copper Products, Inc., this decision has the potential to open up an entirely new market for manufacturers of hospital equipment, touch surfaces and builders hardware as well as the fabricators who supply them with antimicrobial copper, brass and bronze. “As a major supplier of copper and copper alloy products, we see ourselves playing a key long term role in supplying our customers with the materials they’ll need to make antimicrobial countertops, tabletops, IV poles, bed rails, hand rails, and other appropriate copper-based equipment.”

Widely publicized statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate infections acquired in U.S. hospitals affect two million individuals every year and result in nearly 100,000 deaths annually and costing \$30 billion.

“We are delighted with the laboratory findings and with the new designation for these timeless materials,” says Mike O’Shaughnessy.” “Copper, brass and bronze are intrinsically antimicrobial, so that unlike coatings or other materials treatments, their antibacterial properties won’t wear away or be scratched off: they can offer solid, long-term protection and help reduce the amount of bacteria in patient rooms.”

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