



Overview of Danish legislation and actions in connection with the phasing out of dental amalgam

Regulation

The Danish Statutory Order on the ban of import, sale and export of mercury and mercury-containing products no. 73 of 25 January 2016 prohibits *inter alia* the use of mercury in products for dental fillings. Exempt from this ban are products for fillings in permanent molars, where the filling is worn. This restriction on the use of mercury in dental fillings has been in force in Denmark since 1 January 1995.

Guidelines

An assessment commissioned by the Danish Health Agency named “Phasing out of amalgam in dental care - clarifying options and recommendations” concluded and recommended that the ban on the use of dental amalgam containing mercury be narrowed down even further, so that the amalgam should only be used as filling in permanent molars in the following instances:

- 1) lack of possibility of drying
- 2) difficult accessibility of the cavity
- 3) especially large cavity
- 4) large distance to neighbouring tooth

These recommendations have been included in the Danish Ministry of Health guideline on the use of dental fillings no 9552 of 5 July 2018. The guideline underpins the care and conscientiousness that dentists must exhibit under section 17 of the Authorization Act No. 990 of August 18, 2017 in their work by using plastic material, glass ionomer or silver amalgam as filling material in teeth.

Guidance of dentists in Denmark

The Danish Dentist Association offers guidance to Danish dentists. They have for many years assisted dentists in connection with the implementation of the restrictions on use of dental amalgam containing mercury. The Dentist Association has also collected data on the use of dental amalgam. The Danish Dentist Association has been an important player in connection with the phasing out of dental amalgam containing mercury in Denmark and the guidance of the dentists.

Use of dental amalgam in Denmark

The use of dental amalgam has decreased from 22% to 1,7% of the total amount of dental fillings in Denmark in the period 2007 to 2017 (source the Danish Dentist Association).

