

**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Fourth meeting**

Online, 1–5 November 2021 and Bali, Indonesia,

21–25 March 2022

Agenda item 4 (a)

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of
the Parties: mercury-added products and manufacturing
processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are
used**

**Draft decision MC-4/[--]: Review and amendment of annexes A
and B to the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

Submission by the secretariat

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting that that paragraph 8 of Article 4 and paragraph 10 of Article 5 of this Convention provide that, no later than five years after the date of entry into force of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties shall review Annex A and Annex B and may consider amendments to those Annexes in accordance with Article 27,

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties, in its decision MC-3/1, established the ad hoc group of experts on the review of annexes A and B, requested the secretariat to collect relevant information and submit a report on the work of the ad hoc group of experts and a compilation of relevant information to the Conference of the Parties,

Also recalling that the Conference of the Parties, in its decision MC-3/2, requested the secretariat to submit compilation of information on dental amalgam to the Conference of the Parties,

Recognising the efforts of the parties and other stakeholders in providing information pursuant to decisions MC-3/1 and MC-3/2,

Appreciating the work of the secretariat and the work of the ad hoc group of experts in making the information relevant to the review of annexes A and B available to the Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the information submitted pursuant to decisions MC-3/1 and 3/2,

Also having considered the three proposals for amendments to those annexes, namely, one submitted by the European Union, another submitted by Botswana, Burkina Faso and Madagascar, the other submitted by Canada and Switzerland,

1. *Decides* to amend part I of Annex A to the Convention as set out in the following table¹;

* Reissued for technical reason.

¹ Added entries are shown in grey shade.

<i>Mercury-added products</i>	<i>Date after which the manufacture, import or export of the product shall not be allowed (phase-out date)</i>
Batteries, except for button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%	2020
Switches and relays, except very high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20 mg per bridge, switch or relay	2020
Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner	2020
Compact fluorescent lamps with an integrated ballast (CFL.i) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner	2025
Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp; (b) Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 watts with a mercury content exceeding 10 mg per lamp	2020
High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMV) for general lighting purposes	2020
Mercury in cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays: (a) short length (≤ 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp (b) medium length (> 500 mm and ≤ 1 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp (c) long length (> 1 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 13 mg per lamp	2020
Cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFL) and external electrode fluorescent lamps (EEFL) of all lengths for electronic displays, not included in the listing directly above	2025
Cosmetics (with mercury content above 1ppm), including skin lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe substitute preservatives are available ^a	2020
Pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics	2020
The following non-electronic measuring devices except non-electronic measuring devices installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available: (a) barometers; (b) hygrometers; (c) manometers; (d) thermometers; (e) sphygmomanometers.	2020
Strain gauges to be used in plethysmographs;	2025
The following electrical and electronic measuring devices except those installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available: (a) melt pressure transducers, melt pressure transmitters and melt pressure sensors	2025
Mercury vacuum pumps	2025
Tire balancers and wheel weights	2025
Photographic film and paper	2025

<i>Mercury-added products</i>	<i>Date after which the manufacture, import or export of the product shall not be allowed (phase-out date)</i>
Propellant for satellites and spacecraft	2025

2. *Decides* to amend part II of Annex A to the Convention as set out in the following table²;

3. *Notes* that each product entry in paragraphs 1 and 2 above is a separate amendment for purposes of entry into force under Article 27 of the Convention;

<i>Mercury-added products</i>	<i>Provisions</i>
Dental amalgam	<p>Measures to be taken by a Party to phase down the use of dental amalgam shall take into account the Party's domestic circumstances and relevant international guidance and shall include two or more of the measures from the following list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Setting national objectives aiming at dental caries prevention and health promotion, thereby minimizing the need for dental restoration; (ii) Setting national objectives aiming at minimizing its use; (iii) Promoting the use of cost-effective and clinically effective mercury-free alternatives for dental restoration; (iv) Promoting research and development of quality mercury-free materials for dental restoration; (v) Encouraging representative professional organizations and dental schools to educate and train dental professionals and students on the use of mercury-free dental restoration alternatives and on promoting best management practices; (vi) Discouraging insurance policies and programmes that favour dental amalgam use over mercury-free dental restoration; (vii) Encouraging insurance policies and programmes that favour the use of quality alternatives to dental amalgam for dental restoration; (viii) Restricting the use of dental amalgam to its encapsulated form; (ix) Promoting the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to water and land. <p>In addition, Parties shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Exclude or not allow, by taking measures as appropriate, the use of mercury in bulk form by dental practitioners; (ii) Exclude or not allow, by taking measures as appropriate, or recommend against the use of dental amalgam for the dental treatment of deciduous teeth, of patients under 15 years and of pregnant and breastfeeding women, except when considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient.

4. *Requests* the secretariat to draft a revised reporting format under article 21 to collect information on the measures taken related to the provisions that were added by the present amendment, for the consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;

5. *Decides* to consider at the fifth meeting of the Conference the following phase-out dates for Part I of Annex A;

² The added sentence is shown in grey shade.

<i>Mercury-added products</i>	<i>Date after which the manufacture, import or export of the product shall not be allowed (phase-out date)</i>
Button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%	[2025] [2029]
Very high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20 mg per bridge switch or relay [except those used for research and development purposes]	[2025]
Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Halophosphate phosphor \leq 40 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 10 mg per lamp (b) Halophosphate phosphor > 40 watts	[2025] [2027] [2030]
Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg/lamp	[2027] [2030]

6. *Decides* to further consider adding the production of polyurethane using mercury-containing catalysts to part I of Annex B at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to compile information on the availability and technical and economic feasibility of mercury-free alternatives of the production of polyurethane using mercury-containing catalysts to submit it to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting to facilitate its consideration mentioned in the paragraph above;

7. *Requests the* Secretariat to prepare, for consideration of the Conference at its fifth session, a short report on the technical and economic feasibility of mercury-free alternatives for the two processes (vcm and sodium methylate) listed in Part II of Annex B that refer to the Conference establishing such feasibility. In preparing this short report, the Secretariat is to first identify those Parties that reported the use of these two processes in their national reports under Article 21, and then request information from those Parties regarding whether the two processes continue to be utilized by the relevant Party, whether either is scheduled to be phased out nationally, and to what extent mercury-free alternatives are technically and economically feasible. If necessary, the secretariat may request additional information be provided from other Parties and stakeholders.