

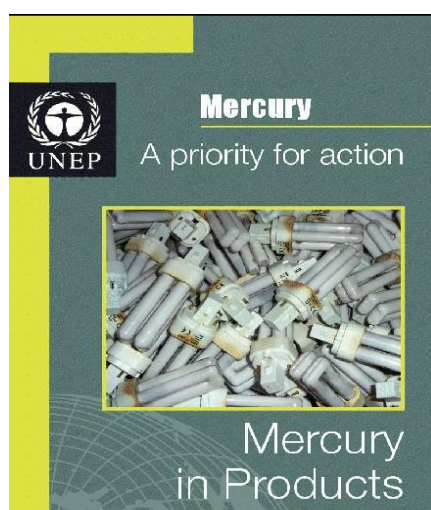
UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Mercury in Products Area

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Issue

Large amounts of mercury are used globally in numerous products and manufacturing processes. Yet, for most products, there are effective alternatives to mercury available.



- promoting environmentally sound production, transportation, storage, and disposal procedures
- providing a partner-driven forum for exchanging information and discussing strategies for achieving goals and objectives

Contribution to Implementation of the Minamata Convention

The partnership intends to provide technical assistance, reporting, and outreach in support of Article 4 of the Minamata Convention, including:

- exchanging and disseminating technical information
- engaging scientific and business communities

Objective

The objective of the partnership is to foster the reduction and eventual elimination of the use of mercury in products, as well as releases of mercury during manufacturing and other industrial processes.

Strategy

The partnership seeks to achieve its goals through:

- identifying and implementing successful approaches for reducing or eliminating mercury in products where there are effective alternatives

Key Text from Article 4: Mercury-Added Products

“implement measures or strategies to reduce the use of mercury in any products”

“take measures to prevent the incorporation into assembled products of mercury-added products”

“collect and maintain information on mercury-added products and their alternatives”

Outreach Activities

Additionally, the partnership convenes and participates in meetings and teleconferences to bring partners together, as well as reach out to various stakeholders interested in issues related to mercury in products

Featured Project

The partnership has completed numerous global projects dedicated to improving and monitoring data baselines, as well as demonstrating availability and efficacy of mercury-free alternatives. An example of this work is the development of a brochure to provide a concise list of effective alternatives to mercury-containing products.



Typical products containing mercury

Future Work to be Carried Out to Support Implementation of the Minamata Convention

The future work of the partnership will build on existing strategies, including:

- encouraging development and substitution of mercury-free products
- incorporating a lifecycle management approach to manufacturing, use, and

disposal/storage of mercury-containing products

- promoting and implementing environmentally sound management of mercury waste
- improving global awareness on mercury exposure, use, production, trade, disposal, and release through exchange and dissemination of information
- increasing engagement of scientific and business communities to gather and disseminate information
- supporting the promulgation of laws, standards, and regulations that would prohibit or restrict importation of mercury-containing products

Collaboration with Other Partnership Areas and Relevant Stakeholders

The partnership focuses on a lifecycle management approach to mercury in products. This includes reflecting the costs, benefits, and potential emissions associated with mercury use in all phases of the product lifecycle. As a result, the partnership looks for ways to collaborate with each member of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, but especially partnerships that address supply, storage, and waste management issues.

For More Information

Visit our web site:

<http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/Mercury/GlobalMercuryPartnership>

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