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Mercury Waste Related Activities Under the Basel Convention

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Goal of the Basel Convention

•To protect human health and the environment from the adverse impacts of hazardous and other wastes from the generation, transboundary movements and management

–entered into force on 5May 1992

–170 States Parties plus European Community



Hazardous Wastes Controlled by the Basel Convention



• Annexes I, VIII and IX, exhibiting Annex III characteristics (Art. 1(1)(a) of Annex I)

• Annex II (Art. 1(2))

•Wastes considered hazardous under the national legislation of a Party, as notified to the Secretariat under Article 3 (Art. 1(1)(b)) (This information may be accessed at the Secretariat's website: www.basel.int/natdef/frsetmain.php)



Environmentally Sound Management

•Central Policy instrument is Environmentally Sound Management (ESM):

"taking all practicable steps to ensure that hazardous wastes or other wastes are managed in a manner which will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes"

•ESM includes minimizing the generation of such wastes, reducing transboundary movements, improving treatment and disposal, and ensuring such wastes are handled as close as possible to where they were generated



Classification of mercury waste in the Basel Convention

Annex I

•Y1 – Clinical wastes from medical care in hospitals, medical centres and clinics

•Y17 – Waste resulting from surface treatment of metals and plastics

•Y18 – Residues arising from industrial waste disposal operations

•Y29 – Mercury; mercury compounds



Classification of mercury waste in the Basel Convention

Annex VIII (List A)

•A1010 – Metal wastes and waste consisting of alloys of ...mercury

•A1030 – Wastes having as constituents or contaminants any of the following....mercury; mercury compounds

•A1170 – Unsorted waste batteries (when containing Hg)

•A1180 – Waste electrical and electronic assemblies or scrap containing e.g. Mercuryswitches; glass from CRTs (containing Hg)

•A2010 – Glass waste from CRTs and other activated glasses



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sification of mercury waste in the Basel Convention

II (List A)(contd)

- **Clinical and related wastes**
- Wastes from industrial control devices
- Waste consisting of or ng off-specification or chemicals corresponding to categories



