

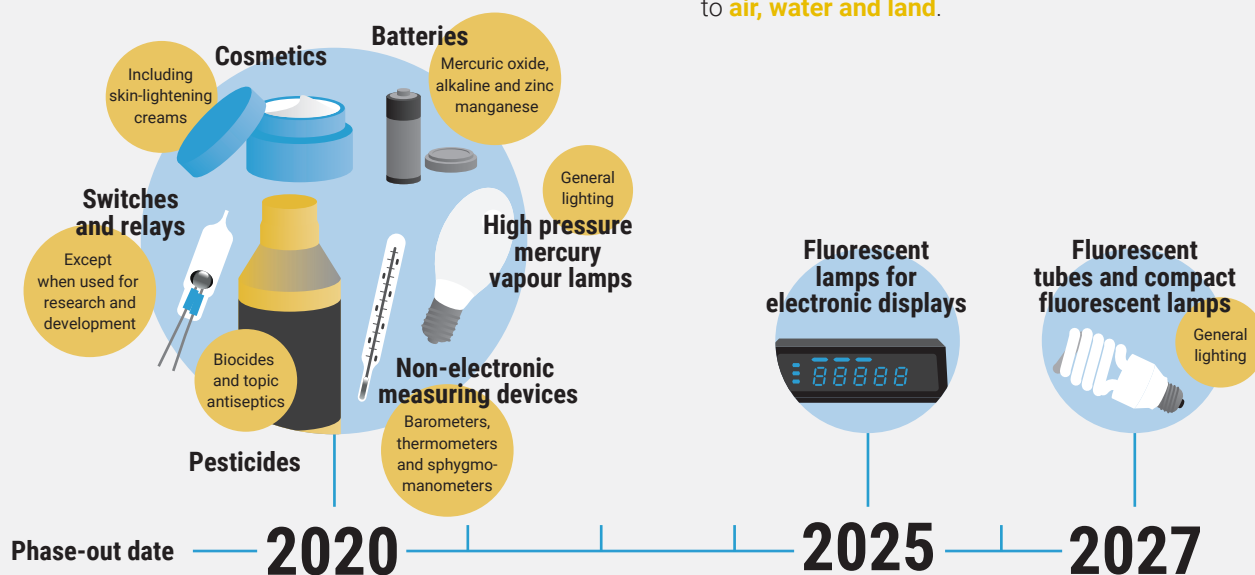
2024 Fact Sheet on

MERCURY -ADDED PRODUCTS



- ▶ Around **30% of the global demand** for mercury comes from its use in products.
- ▶ Mercury is mined or extracted for use in consumer products, and released during the process, causing **harm to human health and the environment**. Some mercury-added products, such as cosmetics, cause direct human exposure to mercury.

- ▶ Over the years, the use of mercury in products such as **lamps, batteries and measuring devices** has decreased as countries switch to mercury-free alternatives. Mercury use in dental fillings is still widespread.
- ▶ Mercury-added products are present in all countries, so **all Parties must take action**. Unless mercury demand can be reduced rapidly by controlling mercury-added products and other uses of mercury, formal and informal mercury supplies and trade will further exacerbate mercury emissions and releases to **air, water and land**.



WHAT THE CONVENTION SAYS

Article 2 of the Minamata Convention defines “mercury-added products” as products or product components that contain mercury or a mercury compound that was intentionally added. Under **Article 4**, the Convention calls upon its Parties to reduce mercury demand in products by phasing out mercury in many key products and controlling uses in others, along with discouraging the manufacture of new products.

- **Annex A Part I** of the Convention lists mercury-added products and the phase-out dates. Phasing out mercury-added products is one of the Parties’ obligations that has the earliest deadline.
- The Conference of Parties amended **Annex A**, adding more products as mercury-free alternatives become feasible, with later phase-out dates. Through these amendments, batteries will become completely mercury-free and fluorescent lamps for general lighting will be phased out.
- These obligations apply to the manufacture, import, and export of the identified products, but not their use. This means mercury-added products already in commerce can still be used within a country after the phase-out date. However, some Parties take proactive measures to limit the use of mercury-added products.
- **Annex A Part II** covers dental amalgam, a material that dentists use for tooth restorations that can impact the health of practitioners and patients, especially pregnant women, teenagers and children.

WHAT WE DO

- ▶ Parties shall not allow the **manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products** listed in **Part I of Annex A** after the phase-out date unless the Party registered an exemption.

- ▶ Parties are required to take two or more measures to **phase down dental amalgam** per Part II of Annex A. With the amendment in 2022, Parties have obligations to restrict the use of dental amalgam to its encapsulated form, and limit the use of dental amalgam for children and pregnant and breast-feeding women.
- ▶ Parties must take measures to prevent the **incorporation into assembled products** of mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A.
- ▶ Parties shall discourage the **manufacture and distribution in commerce** of mercury-added products not covered by the Convention. An exception may be provided if an assessment of the risks and benefits of the new product demonstrates environmental or human health benefits.
- ▶ Annex A also **provides for exclusions** (such as for research, civil protection and military use, traditional or religious practices, manufacturing vaccines.).

REFERENCES

- [Minamata Convention text and annexes](#)
- [MC Capacity-building material on mercury-added products \(6 languages\)](#)
- [Global Mercury Partnership products area](#)
- [UNEP Global Mercury Supply, Trade and Demand Report](#)
- [WHO Guidance on phasing out mercury-added thermometers and sphygmomanometers](#)
- [STRiKE project](#)
- [Green Customs Guide Initiative \(GCI\)](#)
- [NEWMOA Mercury-Added Product Fact Sheets](#)
- [Zero Mercury Working Group mercury in products](#)
- [EEB/ZMWG/NRDC Guide and Checklist for Phasing Out Mercury added Products](#)

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty that helps countries to control, reduce and eliminate mercury across all its life-stages with the objective to protect human health and the environment.

It is named after the bay in Japan where, in the mid-20th century, mercury-tainted industrial wastewater poisoned thousands of people, leading to severe health damage that became known as the “Minamata disease”.

Since it entered into force on 16 August 2017, Parties have been working together to control the mercury supply and trade, reduce the use, emissions and releases of mercury, raise public awareness, and build the necessary institutional capacity.

Minamata Convention website
<https://minamataconvention.org>

