

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Project study on the availability and efficacy of Mercury-free /Convention compliant products in Mauritius.

Target groups: Users of medical and laboratory measuring devices

Introduction:

Mercury is toxic to human health and the environment. However it is still used in various products for specific applications even though Mercury-free alternative products have been produced for many of these same applications. Since 2013, more than 120 countries including Mauritius have signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a global treaty which aims to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. In the above context, the NGO Pesticide Action Network of Mauritius (PANeM) in collaboration with its international partners, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and the Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG), is assisting the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Mauritius and other stakeholders to progress towards the future ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention by Mauritius.

Rationale:

As part of current activities on the Minamata Convention being undertaken by the Government of Mauritius, PANeM is conducting a project pertaining to the phasing out / phasing down of Mercury-added products in Mauritius by the year 2020, in accordance with the Minamata Convention. The products to be phased out include medical and laboratory measuring devices containing Mercury such as Thermometers and Sphygmomanometers.

Accordingly, PANeM would be most grateful for your kind participation in contributing to the gathering of information on Mercury-free alternative products to replace mercury-added measuring devices that are currently imported, distributed and sold in Mauritius. The aggregated data will be presented to government and stakeholders prior to inclusion in a consultancy report.

Should you be agreeable to participate in this survey, please kindly read the questionnaire below and provide the most appropriate answers to the questions by typing, writing or checking the appropriate boxes. Once completed, please mail back the completed questionnaire to Mr. Shailand Gunnoo, Project Consultant (shailandg@gmail.com) and Mr. Hemsing Hurrinag, Project Director (dionet@intnet.mu). Kindly note that the deadline for returning the filled questionnaires is **Monday 6th June 2016**.

Thanking you in advance and looking forward for your participation.



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SECTION A : PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

Qu. 1 : Name of respondent and position in organisation.....

Qu. 2 : Organisation's name and type.....

Qu. 3 : Type of activities undertaken at the organisation :.....

Qu. 4 : Number of years since organisation is using medical or laboratory measuring devices :.....

SECTION B: USE AND PURCHASE

Qu. 5 : Please specify which of the following groups use medical/laboratory measuring devices in your organisation :

Technical staff only Staff and trainees Students Any others

Qu. 6 : Please specify how are specifications of measuring devices, to be used within your organisation, approved i.e, before that procurement is initiated :

Based on current use Expert advice Internet search Comparing policies Assistance from suppliers

Qu. 7 : Please indicate which of the following types of Mercury-added devices are used at your organisation?

Medical Thermometers Lab. Thermometers (Non-Medical) Sphygmomanometers Any others :

Qu. 8 : Please indicate which of the following types of Mercury-free devices are used at your organisation?

Medical Thermometers Lab. Thermometers (Non-Medical) Sphygmomanometers Any others :

Qu. 9 : In case that Mercury-free devices are used at your organisation, please explain how training on the use of these devices is provided to intended end-users, whether existing staff, new recruits, trainees, etc ?

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Qu. 10 : Please fill up the required information in the next table on the types of measuring devices purchased by your organisation :

Type I :						
Year	Amount purchased	*Country / countries of origin	**Approx. cost price	***Product types and applications	Approx. no. of users	****Compliance of products
2013						
2014						
2015						
Type II :						
Year	Amount purchased	*Country / countries of origin	**Approx. cost price	***Product types and applications	Approx. no. of users	****Compliance of products
2013						
2014						
2015						
Type III :						
Year	Amount purchased	*Country / countries of origin	**Approx. cost price	***Product types and applications	Approx. no. of users	****Compliance of products
2013						
2014						
2015						
Type IV :						
Year	Amount purchased	*Country / countries of origin	**Approx. cost price	***Product types and applications	Approx. no. of users	****Compliance of products
2013						
2014						
2015						

* Please specify all that apply.

**Please provide a yearly total in Mauritian Rupees, inclusive of all charges and taxes.

***For each type, please be precise for e.g. Medical Thermometers can be Digital, Alcohol-type and the applications for e.g. Body temperature (Fever) measurement and provide any other applicable specifications.

**** Please state any Norms / Standards for e.g. CE, BS, ISO, ASTM, etc. that the measuring devices are compliant with, otherwise state 'N/A' if not applicable.

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Qu. 11 : As of now, has your organisation initiated any policy (for e.g. a procurement & supply policy, management decision, etc.) with regards to the purchase of Mercury-free measuring devices ?

Yes No Don't know

If 'Yes' please provide details on the decision, for instance when and how it was initiated:

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Qu. 12 : Further to an official purchase request from your organisation, do you find that the above-mentioned mercury-free measuring devices are readily available from the local suppliers in Mauritius?

Yes, always At times, yes No, it takes > 1 month No, it takes > 2 months So far, not applicable

Qu. 13 : Would your organisation be able to purchase only Mercury-free devices by 2020?

Yes No Don't know

If 'No', please specify which Mercury-added device(s) would still be purchased after 2020 and briefly explain why.

Medical Thermometers Laboratory Thermometers (non-Medical) Sphygmomanometers Others ?

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Qu. 14 : To date, has your organisation faced challenges with the purchase / use of Mercury-free measuring devices for e.g. lack of assistance from suppliers, lengthy delivery times, difficulties in getting spare parts, faulty devices etc.?

Yes

No

If 'Yes' briefly describe the nature of such challenges, whom did your organisation approach for the specific devices in question, and how these challenges were overcome :

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SECTION C: AFTER SALES SERVICES

Qu. 15 : In case your organisation has ever benefitted from after-sales services for the supplied measuring device(s), please indicate in the respective cells below, which of these services were applicable, specifying the types of devices:

After sales services	Tick /check :	Indicate the type of device(s) (specifying if Mercury-added or Mercury-free)
Advice / demonstration on use		
Repairs of devices		
Take-back of end-of-life devices		
Training of end-users		
Calibration of devices		
Take-back of faulty/broken devices		
Advice on new/alternative products		
Changing of spare parts		
Any other (please specify)		

Qu. 16 : Based on your actual experience on the performance and characteristics of the Mercury-added and Mercury-free measuring devices, please indicate with a tick mark, which type is better for the specified criterion in the next table. In case that both types are considered as equally good, please tick the column labeled 'Equivalent' for that criterion:

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Product Criterion	<u>Medical Thermometers</u>			<u>Laboratory Thermometers (Non-Medical)</u>			<u>Sphygmomanometers</u>		
	Mercury-free	Mercury added	Equivalent	Mercury-free	Mercury added	Equivalent	Mercury-free	Mercury added	Equivalent
Response time									
Ease of use									
Reliability of results									
Accuracy of results									
Measuring range									
Market availability									
Ease of calibration									
Shorter duration for calibration									
Shorter duration for repair									
Technical Assistance from manufacturer / original supplier									
Longer life-time									
More affordable unit price									

Qu. 17 : In case repairs and/or calibrations (as stated above) were conducted please specify whether these were done locally or abroad, and if there were any differences between Mercury-added and Mercury free devices in this regard (e.g. practicality, time needed) ?

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Qu. 18 : In case a Mercury-added measuring device is considered better (for any of the above criterion under Qu.15), explain what may be needed to facilitate the transition to Mercury-free ones in Mauritius?

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Qu. 19 : Do you consider that suppliers of the measuring devices can assist in the transition of Mercury-free ones in Mauritius ?

Yes

No

If 'Yes' briefly describe how they could do so:

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Qu. 20 : Any final remarks /comments/suggestions on this survey, especially on how your organisation can also be involved in assisting the transition of Mercury-free ones in Mauritius?

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND COLLABORATION