

Electrical Switches and Relays- Market Survey on Mercury Added Products

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, through the Ministry of Planning and Development, is developing strategies to reduce releases of mercury (a chemical element that is toxic to human health and the environment).

Despite being toxic, mercury has been commonly used worldwide in a variety of applications due to its useful properties. Most commonly, mercury has historically been used in several useful products such as some electrical switches and relays, among others, though mercury-free alternatives have become more common in recent years.

In order to better inform the development of national strategies to ensure the phase-out of mercury-added products, your cooperation and participation in a market survey is kindly requested.

CONFIDENTIALITY- All survey responses will be collated and analysed to inform the development of a national market survey report. Individual company/respondent's data will not be shared publicly.

REVISED Survey close date: 8 March 2022.

Approximate time needed to complete survey: 15 - 20 minutes.

If you experience any issues completing the survey or have any queries, please email Ms. Tahlia Ali Shah, Independent Consultant recruited to conduct the market survey at: tahlia.alishah15@gmail.com

* Required

1. Please indicate your full name. *

2. Please indicate your official position in the company. *

3. Email Address *

4. Name of Company *

5. How do you typically purchase the products in your company? Tick all that apply. *

Mark only one oval.

Directly from an overseas manufacturer/ international trader *Skip to question 7*

Directly from a distributing company in the wider Caribbean region
Skip to question 7

Directly from a distributing company within Trinidad and Tobago *Skip to question 6*

Other: _____

Product Purchase Details

6. Please state the name of the local distributing company that supplies your products as indicated.

7. What is the scope of your company's operations? *

Mark only one oval.

We are based in Trinidad and Tobago and retail locally. *Skip to question 9*

We retail our products within Trinidad and Tobago as well as export to other Caribbean islands *Skip to question 8*

8. List the Caribbean country/countries that your company exports to. ADDITIONALLY, for each country identified, kindly specify either the company name(s) or type of importers (e.g. retailer, sister company) that receive your goods.

Awareness

9. Are you aware that some electrical switches, relays and thermostats contain mercury (symbol: Hg)? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes *Skip to question 10*

No

Hg Awareness Follow-up Question

10. Please select all of the below statements that reflect your understanding of mercury-added products.

Check all that apply.

I am aware that certain electrical switches, relays and thermostats contain mercury from my own general knowledge.

I am aware of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

The products I import typically have "contains Hg" or "Hg-free" or similar informative labelling

Other: _____

Awareness (continued)

11. Under the Minamata Convention on Mercury, countries are required to phase out the import of mercury-added electrical switches and relays. What challenges do you foresee for your company if this phase-out is implemented? (Please tick all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- No challenges foreseen
- Supply challenges in obtaining mercury-free alternatives
- Demand challenges/reduced business as customers may still request mercury-added electrical switches and relays

Other: _____

12. In comparing the reasons for purchasing mercury-added electrical switches, relays and thermostats versus mercury-free alternatives, please indicate preference for either type according to the following criteria:

Mark only one oval per row.

	Mercury-added electrical switches, relays and thermostats	Mercury-free alternatives	No preference
More affordable unit price	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability in different forms/models	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Easily available from original suppliers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More compatible with most appliances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Longer life-time/shelf-life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. In your opinion, can the private sector assist in national phase-out efforts for mercury-added electrical devices? If yes, please provide details. *

14. If you have any further comments on potential challenges in phasing out mercury-added electrical switches, relays and/or thermostats, please detail here:

Data Gathering

15. Kindly indicate if your company retails/has in stock any of the following products (tick all that apply). *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Yes	No	Unsure
Mercury-added (Hg) Switches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mercury-added (Hg) Relays	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mercury Thermostats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mercury-free Switches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mercury-free Relays	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mercury-free Thermostats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. If known, please indicate the country/ countries of origin of the MERCURY-ADDED electrical switches in stock.

17. If known, please indicate the country/ countries of origin of the MERCURY-ADDED electrical relays in stock.

18. If known, please indicate the country/ countries of origin of the MERCURY-ADDED thermostats in stock.

19. If known, please indicate the country/ countries of origin of the MERCURY-FREE electrical switches in stock.

20. If known, please indicate the country/ countries of origin of the MERCURY-FREE electrical relays in stock.

21. If known, please indicate the country/ countries of origin of the MERCURY-FREE thermostats in stock.

Kindly separate your answer based on overall product type (switches, relays and/or thermostats).

22. Please list the typical brands of electrical switches, relays and/or thermostats in stock. *

Kindly separate your answer based on overall product type (switches, relays and/or thermostats).

Thank you for your response!

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