

Medical Measuring Devices - 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 mercury thermometers and mercury sphygmomanometers, 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: 9 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 facility/organization. *

3. Email Address *

4. Name of Facility/ Organization *

5. For what purpose do you procure medical devices, such as thermometers and blood pressure machines? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Solely for use within own facility *Skip to question 7*
- ☐ For use within own facility as well as, for distribution to other health facilities within Trinidad and Tobago *Skip to question 6*
- ☐ Solely for distribution to other health facilities within Trinidad and Tobago
 Skip to question 6
- ☐ For retail *Skip to question 7*
- ☐ Other:

Procurement Follow-Up Question

6. Please list the names of the facilities for which you procure medical devices.

Preliminary Information

7. In the past 3 years, has your company imported/retailed any of the following devices? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Mercury Thermometers *Skip to question 8*
- ☐ Mercury Sphygmomanometers *Skip to question 12*
- ☐ Both- Mercury Thermometers and Mercury Sphygmomanometers
- ☐ Neither *Skip to question 16*

Mercury Thermometers- Quantitative Data Gathering

8. For the past three (3) years (2019, 2020, 2021), how many MERCURY thermometers were imported by your company per year? *

Kindly separate your answer based on each year.

9. Based on the imports indicated in your above response, please indicate the source companies AND/OR countries of the mercury thermometers imported. *

10. In comparing the reasons for importing mercury-added thermometers and mercury-free alternatives (eg. alcohol or digital), please indicate preference for either type according to the following criteria: *

Mark only one oval per row.

	mercury thermometers	mercury-free alternative thermometers	No preference
More affordable unit price	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Easily available from original suppliers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Longer life-time/shelf-life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More reliable/accurate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. If you have any further reasons for importing MERCURY thermometers, please detail.

Mercury Sphygmomanometers- Quantitative Data Gathering

12. For the past three (3) years (2019, 2020, 2021), how many MERCURY sphygmomanometers were imported by your company per year? *

Kindly separate your answer based on each year and type of mercury sphygmomanometer if relevant.

13. Based on the imports indicated in your above response, please indicate the source companies AND/OR countries of the mercury sphygmomanometers imported. *

14. In comparing the reasons for purchasing mercury-added sphygmomanometers and mercury-free alternatives (eg. digital), please indicate preference for either type according to the following criteria: *

Mark only one oval per row.

	mercury sphygmomanometers	mercury-free alternatives	No preference
More affordable unit price	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More reliable/accurate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Easily available from original suppliers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Longer life-time/shelf-life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Easier to calibrate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. If you have any further reasons for importing MERCURY sphygmomanometers, please detail.

Mercury-Free Alternatives Thermometers and Sphygmomanometers- Quantitative Data Gathering

16. For the past three (3) years (2019, 2020, 2021), how many MERCURY-FREE sphygmomanometers/ digital blood pressure machines were imported by your company per year? *

Kindly separate your answer based on each year and type of mercury-free device if relevant.

17. Based on the imports indicated in your above response, please indicate the source companies AND/OR countries of the mercury-free sphygmomanometers/digital blood pressure machines imported. *

Kindly separate your answer based on each year and type of mercury-free device if relevant.

18. For the past three (3) years (2019, 2020, 2021), how many MERCURY-FREE thermometers (alcohol and/or digital) were imported by your company per year? *

Kindly separate your answer based on each year and type of thermometer (alcohol/digital/other) if relevant.

19. Based on the imports indicated in your above response, please indicate the source companies AND/OR countries of the mercury-free thermometers imported. *

Kindly separate your answer based on each year and type of mercury-free device if relevant.

Awareness

20. Has your company ever encountered any of the following challenges with the import of mercury-free thermometers (digital/alcohol)? *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Yes	No	Unsure
Difficulties in sourcing mercury-free manufacturers/traders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Delays in processing orders from manufacturers/traders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lengthy delivery times	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulties in obtaining product quality assurance information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. If you indicated 'YES' to "Other" above or have any further details on any of your responses to the above question, kindly provide brief details.

22. Has your company ever encountered any of the following challenges with the import of mercury-free sphygmomanometers/blood pressure monitoring devices?

*

Mark only one oval per row.

	Yes	No	Unsure
Difficulties in sourcing mercury-free manufacturers/traders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Delays in processing orders from manufacturers/traders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lengthy delivery times	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulties in obtaining product quality information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

23. If your response to any of the above challenges was 'yes', kindly provide brief details on the nature of the challenges and how/if they were overcome.

24. Under the Minamata Convention on Mercury, countries are required to phase out the import of certain mercury-added products (e.g. mercury thermometers). 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 prefer mercury-added products

Other: ☐ _____

25. In your opinion, do you consider that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago implements sufficient measures for the promotion of mercury-free devices in healthcare? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Yes, to a high extent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	No

26. Does your organization have a policy or any foreseen plans to promote the procurement of mercury-free alternatives in health care? If yes, please provide details. *

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

Thank you for your response!

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