

[country] Dental Amalgam Phase Out Resolution

Whereas; The Hippocratic Oath, “First Do No Harm,” is more relevant today than ever. For while scientific progress allows us to treat illnesses with more effectiveness and efficiency, it also engenders a paradox; the health care sector emits a diversity of harmful pollutants, one of which is mercury.

Whereas; Mercury-added products and devices used in health care settings, including dental amalgam, are a potential source of exposure for patients, personnel and the general population and pollute both the local and global environment;

Whereas; Dental amalgam is a dental filling material consisting of 50% elemental mercury.

Whereas; Mercury is a developmental, neurological, and renal toxin, as well as a heavy metal and persistent bioaccumulative toxin of global concern.

Whereas; The Minamata Convention on Mercury entered into force in August 2017 with the objective “to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.”

Whereas; The Minamata Convention on Mercury has demonstrated that sufficient scientific evidence exists regarding the adverse global effects of mercury and its compounds. Ratified by 140 Parties (as of March 2023), the Convention is designed to protect human health and the environment through controlling the anthropogenic releases of mercury throughout its lifecycle.

Whereas; The Minamata Convention states that Parties are “Aware of the health concerns, especially in developing countries, resulting from exposure to mercury of vulnerable populations, especially women, children, and, through them, future generations.”

Whereas; The government of [country] played a role in the treaty negotiations and on [xxx] ratified the Minamata Convention.

Whereas; The Minamata Convention requires each nation to reduce all incidental and purposeful uses and releases of mercury, including from dental amalgam.

Whereas; [adapt accordingly] In 2015, dentists used between 226 and 322 metric tons of mercury accounting for almost 20% of all global mercury products use.

Whereas; Once dental amalgam enters the environment, certain microorganisms can change elemental mercury into methylmercury, a highly toxic form that builds up in fish, shellfish and animals that eat fish.

Whereas; Fish and shellfish are the main sources of methylmercury exposure to humans and can damage children’s developing brains and nervous systems even during pregnancy.

Therefore; [country] health care dental institutions agree to make a conscious effort to progressively eliminate their contribution to mercury pollution. This can be accomplished, among other activities, by replacing dental amalgam with accessible, accurate and available mercury free dental filling alternatives.

We further endorse ending all use of dental amalgam by the end of 2023 with time-limited, specified exemptions.