

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

Target groups: Traders of batteries, lamps and power 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 certain Mercury –containing batteries, lamps and power devices as described on page 6 in the Annexed table i.e. after the questionnaire.

Accordingly, PANeM would be most grateful for your kind participation in contributing to the gathering of information on specific products that comply with the Minamata Convention to replace non-compliant ones that are currently imported into Mauritius. All information received will be dealt confidentially. The aggregated data will be presented to government and other stakeholders prior to inclusion in a consultancy report.

Should you be agreeable to participate in this survey, kindly 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 **Friday 28th October 2016**.

Thanking you in advance and looking forward for your participation.



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QUESTIONNAIRE

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

Qu. 2 : Company name: **Qu. 3 :**No. of years that the company imports batteries, lamps or power devices:

Qu. 4 : Please tick (✓) below the arrow column, which specific products are currently imported by your company based on the assigned codes:

BATTERIES			LAMPS			POWER DEVICES		
Code	Convention Non-compliant	↓	Code	Convention Non-Compliant	↓	Code	Convention Non-Compliant	↓
B1	Mercuric oxide (all kinds)		L1	Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) of power ≤ 30 W and of Mercury content ≥ 5 mg		P1	Mercury-added switches	
B2	Zinc – Air button cells with at least 2 % Mercury e.g. for hearing aids		L2	Linear Fluorescent Lamps (LFLs) with Triband phosphor of power < 60 W and of Mercury content > 5 mg		P2	Mercury-added relays	
B3	Mercury-added Alkaline–Manganese button cells		L3	LFLs with Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 W and of Mercury content > 10 mg		P3	Mercury-added thermostats	
B4	Mercury-added Zinc-Carbon cylindrical cells		L4	Cold cathode or External Electrode Fluorescent Lamps (CC / EE FLs) of length ≤ 500 mm and of Mercury content > 3.5 mg		Code	Convention compliant	↓
Code	Convention compliant	↓	L5	CC / EE FLs of length between 500 and 1500 mm and of Mercury content > 5 mg		P4	Mercury-free relays	
B5	Silver oxide button cells with < 2 % Mercury e.g. for watches		L6	CC/EE FLs of length > 1500 mm and of Mercury content > 13 mg		P5	Mercury-free switches	
B6	Zinc – Air button cells with < 2 % Mercury e.g. for hearing aids		L7	High Pressure Mercury Vapour (HPMV) lamps		P6	Mercury-free thermostats	
B7	Mercury-free Alkaline–Manganese button cells		Code	Convention Compliant	↓			
B8	Mercury-free Zinc-Carbon cylindrical cells		L8	CFLs of power ≤ 30 W and of Mercury content < 5 mg, Light Emitting Diode (LED) lamps, Halogen lamps, etc.				
			L9	LFLs with Triband phosphor < 60 W and of Mercury content ≤ 5 mg, LED lamps, Halogen lamps, etc.				
			L10	LFLs with Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 W and of Mercury content ≤ 10 mg, LED lamps, Halogen lamps, etc				
			L11	CC /EE FLs with low Mercury (alternatives to L4, L5 and L6)				

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				LED lamps, Halogen lamps, etc			
		L12		Alternatives to HPMV lamps (L7)			

Qu. 5 : Please fill up the next table with the relevant information on the products imported by your company for past three years.
If need be, please use additional pages for this question (e.g.in case of multiple types of products)

CONVENTION COMPLIANT BATTERIES						CONVENTION NON-COMPLIANT BATTERIES					
Year	Amount imported	*Country / countries of origin	**Product compliance	*** Cost price	*Product codes as per Qu. 4	Year	Amount imported	*Country / countries of origin	**Product compliance	***Cost price	*Product codes as per Qu. 4
2013						2013					
2014						2014					
2015						2015					
CONVENTION COMPLIANT LAMPS						CONVENTION NON-COMPLIANT LAMPS					
Year	Amount imported	*Country / countries of origin	**Product compliance	***Cost price	*Product codes as per Qu. 4	Year	Amount imported	*Country / countries of origin	**Product compliance	***Cost price	*Product codes as per Qu. 4
2013						2013					
2014						2014					
2015						2015					
CONVENTION COMPLIANT POWER DEVICES						CONVENTION NON-COMPLIANT POWER DEVICES					
Year	Amount imported	*Country / countries of origin	**Product compliance	***Cost price	*Product codes as per Qu. 4	Year	Amount imported	*Country / countries of origin	**Product compliance	***Cost price	*Product codes as per Qu. 4
2015						2013					
2014						2014					
2015						2015					

*Please specify all that apply.

**Please state any Standards for e.g. CE, BS, ISO, etc. that the specific products are compliant with.

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

Qu. 6 : Please indicate the estimated amount of time needed for your company to currently fill an order of Convention-compliant products :

Less than 2 weeks Less than 1 month Less than 2 months Any other period of time

Qu. 7 : Has your company ever met with challenges for the Convention-compliant products that it has imported ? Yes No

If 'Yes', briefly describe the nature of such challenges, and how they were overcome:

Qu. 8 : Would your company be able to fill orders of Convention-compliant products by 2020? Yes No Don't know

If 'No', please provide reason (s) for which of the specific product types, this would not be possible ?

Qu. 9 : Do you provide to regulatory authorities, any certificate for the chemical contents of the products imported by your company ?

Yes always Yes, at times Only upon our requests No, it's not requested

Qu. 10 : Between Convention-compliant (CC) and Convention non-compliant (NC) products, please tick (√), the type you consider more suitable for the specified criterion below. In case both types are considered equivalent, please tick the column labeled 'EQ' for that criterion.

If need be, please use additional pages for this question (e.g.in case of multiple types of products)

Criterion	Products			Batteries			Lamps			Power devices		
	CC	NC	EQ	CC	NC	EQ	CC	NC	EQ	CC	NC	EQ
More affordable unit price												
Packaging of the product provides adequate information to users												
Availability in different forms/models												
Easily available from original suppliers												
More energy efficient												
Compatibility with most appliances												
Longer life-time / shelf-life												

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Qu. 11 : Please indicate the approximate numbers of applicable customers to which imported products were supplied over past three years :

Year / products	2013			2014			2015		
	Batteries	Lamps	Power devices	Batteries	Lamps	Power devices	Batteries	Lamps	Power devices
Customers									
Sister companies									
Wholesaler shops									
Retailers shops									
Supermarkets & Branded stores									
Governmental institutions									

Qu. 12 : Based on your customer orders and Government requirements, have you noted any preference for products compliant to the Minamata Convention compared to non-compliant ones :

Yes, for all products Yes, for some products only No preference noted Can't say

Qu. 13 : In view of facilitating the transition towards products that comply to the Minamata Convention in Mauritius, would your company be able to obtain any assistance on product specification or other technical data from original suppliers / manufacturers ? Yes No

If 'No' ,briefly describe why, and indicate if these products are in accordance to the Convention ?

Qu. 14 : According to you, how may the private sector in Mauritius assist in the phasing down of Convention non-compliant products ?

Qu. 15 : Has your company been involved in the collection and disposal of used/ old/ obsolete products which it supplied ? Yes No
 If 'Yes' ,briefly provide details:

Qu. 16 : Any final remarks /comments/ suggestions on this survey :.....

- END OF QUESTIONNAIRE -

ANNEX

Table of Mercury-added products relevant to your target group :

Batteries, except for button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%
Switches and relays, except very high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20 mg per bridge, switch or relay
Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner
Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp; (b) Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 watts with a mercury content exceeding 10 mg per lamp
High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMV) for general lighting purposes
Mercury in cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays: (a) short length (≤ 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp (b) medium length (> 500 mm and $\leq 1\ 500$ mm) with mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp (c) long length ($> 1\ 500$ mm) with mercury content exceeding 13 mg per lamp

Source : Minamata Convention on Mercury – Text of the Convention.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND COOPERATION