



Feasibility study:

Global inventory of mercury compound supply, use and trade

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Objective

Assess the feasibility of developing a global inventory of key mercury compounds:

- ▀ Compounds of interest
- ▀ Components of a global inventory
- ▀ Sources of information

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Methodology for this feasibility study

- ▀ Key mercury compounds
- ▀ Types of data sought
- ▀ Potential sources of information
- ▀ Spot-check information sources
- ▀ Any barriers or challenges
- ▀ Draw conclusions about feasibility
- ▀ Implications for the Minamata Convention

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Initial compounds of interest

- Mercury(II) ammonium chloride
- Mercury(II) acetate
- Mercury(I) chloride, also known as calomel
- Mercury(II) chloride
- Mercury(II) iodide
- Mercury(II) nitrate
- Mercury(II) oxide
- Mercury(II) sulfate
- Mercury(II) sulfide (cinnabar, in its natural form)
- Mercury(II) thiocyanate
- Phenylmercury(II) acetate

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Trade names for mercury(II) ammonium chloride (CAS No. 10124-48-8)

Aminomercuric chloride
Aminomercury chloride
Ammoniated mercuric chloride
Ammoniated mercury
Hydrargyrum ammoniatum
Hydrargyrum precipitatum album
Mercuric amidochloride
Mercuric ammonium chloride
Mercuric chloride, ammoniated
Mercury amide chloride
Mercury ammoniated
Mercury ammonium chloride
Mercury(II) chloride ammonobasic
Mercury, ammoniated
Quecksilber(II)-amid-chlorid
White mercuric precipitate
and more...

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Uses restricted under Annex A of the Convention (COP-4)

Mercury-added products (with some exceptions)	Containing mercury	Containing mercury compounds
Batteries (2020)		X
Switches and relays (2020)	X	
Fluorescent lamps (2020, except 2025 for CFL.i and CCFL)	X	
High pressure mercury vapour lamps (2020)	X	
Cosmetics including skin lightening soaps and creams (2020)		X
Pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics (2020)		X
Non-electronic measuring devices, including barometers; hygrometers; manometers; thermometers; sphygmo. (2020)	X	
Strain gauges used in plethysmographs (2025)	X	
Electrical and electronic measuring devices, incl. melt pressure transducers, melt press. transmitters, melt press. sensors (2025)	X	
Mercury vacuum pumps (2025)	X	
Tyre balancers and wheel weights (2025)	X	
Photographic film and paper (2025)		X
Propellant for satellites and spacecraft (2025)	X	
Dental amalgam (measures to be taken and restrictions)	X	

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Manufacturing processes restricted under Annex B of the Convention

Manufacturing processes using mercury (with some exceptions)	Using mercury	Using mercury compounds
Chlor-alkali (2025)	X	
Acetaldehyde (2018)		X
Polyurethane systems (phase-out date to be considered at COP-5)		X
Vinyl chloride monomer (measures to be taken)		X
Sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate (measures to be taken)	X	

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General conclusions

- ▶ Reasonably detailed global inventory of supply, uses and trade of mercury compounds can be developed
- ▶ Such an inventory should be developed to inform the provisions of Articles 4 and 5 of the Minamata Convention

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Suggested approach

- ▶ Confirm and focus on key mercury compounds
- ▶ Best information sources identified
- ▶ Minimize uncertainties, though some are inevitable

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Significance for the Minamata Convention

- ▶ Significant production and trade of certain mercury compounds
- ▶ Not currently subject to the supply and trade control measures of the Convention
- ▶ Article 3, paragraph 13 requires the COP to consider action on compounds
- ▶ Inventory can provide factual basis for required COP decision-making
- ▶ Important for this process to begin given EIA findings

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Feasibility study

- ▶ The feasibility study has been distributed to COP focal points and the list of COP-3 attendees
- ▶ It may be requested directly from dlennett@nrdc.org
- ▶ It will also be available at COP-5
- ▶ Document ref:
P. Maxson, "Feasibility of conducting a global inventory of mercury compound supply, use and trade." Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., March 2023.

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Mercurous Chloride (Calomel)

Mumbai, Maharashtra



Aminomercuric Chloride

Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province

THANK YOU!

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