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**Environmental Protection Department  
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環境保護署  
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31 October 2024

Environmental Contractors Management Association

9/F, LEE GARDEN FIVE , 18 HYSAN AVENUE , CAUSEWAY  
BAY

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Amendment to the Mercury Control Ordinance**

I refer to our earlier letters sent to you in January 2022 and September 2023 regarding the above matter.

2. The Minamata Convention on Mercury (the Convention) entered into force on 16 August 2017. It aims to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. The People's Republic of China is a Party of the Convention and the Convention also applies to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
3. To fulfil the international obligations of the Convention, the Mercury Control Ordinance (Cap. 640) (the Ordinance) came into operation on 1 December 2021. The Ordinance mainly regulates the export, import, keeping and use of mercury, mercury mixtures and mercury compounds; and to control the export, import, manufacture and supply of certain mercury-added products (MAPs), etc.
4. As stated in our earlier letter of September 2023, the Convention adopted the decision of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP4) for phasing out the MAPs by 2025 as set out in Appendix 1. We have not received any objections to the local implementation of the decision of COP4. In addition, our letter also mentioned that the proposal to further phase out certain MAPs might be endorsed at the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP5) held in October 2023. In this connection, we would need to amend the Ordinance for inclusion of the newly added MAPs to the Convention under control. The Convention has already adopted the decision of the COP5 for phasing out the MAPs as set out in Appendix 2. We are going to amend the Ordinance to incorporate the control of these MAPs (Appendix 1 & Appendix 2) shortly in order to fulfil the international obligations of the Convention. Upon the coming into effect of the proposed legislative amendments, any import, export, manufacture, or supply of these new regulated mercury-added products, as well as any incorporation of such product into another thing as a component, will be prohibited under the Ordinance in the HKSAR. However, storage or use of Regulated Mercury-added Products is not controlled under the Ordinance.

5. If you have any enquiries or views on the above matters, please inform us by 30 November 2024. You can also contact me at 2835 1230 or email to [mercury@epd.gov.hk](mailto:mercury@epd.gov.hk).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victor Leung', with a vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

(Victor Leung)

for Director of Environmental Protection

- Appendix 1 – List of Mercury-added Products adopted at COP4 for inclusion in Part I of Annex A to the Minamata Convention
- Appendix 2 – List of Mercury-added Products adopted at COP5 for inclusion in Part I of Annex A to the Minamata Convention

**List of Mercury-added Products adopted at COP4 for inclusion  
in Part I of Annex A to the Minamata Convention**

|   | <b>Mercury-added Products#</b>   | <b>Date after which the<br/>manufacture, import or<br/>export of the product<br/>shall not be allowed<br/>(phase-out date)</b> |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Compact fluorescent lamps with an integrated ballast (CFL.i) for general lighting purposes that are $\leq 30$ watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner  | 2025   |
| 2 | Cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFL) and external electrode fluorescent lamps (EEFL) of all lengths for electronic displays   |  |
| 3 | Strain gauges to be used in plethysmographs  |  |
| 4 | The following electrical and electronic measuring devices, except those installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available:<br>Melt pressure transducers, melt pressure transmitters and melt pressure sensors |  |
| 5 | Mercury vacuum pumps   |  |
| 6 | Tyre balancers and wheel weights   |  |
| 7 | Photographic film and paper  |  |
| 8 | Propellant for satellites and spacecraft   |  |

# A mercury-added product is a thing that contains intentionally added mercury or mercury compounds

**List of Mercury-added Products adopted at COP5 for inclusion  
in Part I of Annex A to the Minamata Convention**

|   | <b>Mercury-added Products#</b>   | <b>Date after which the manufacture, import or export of the product shall not be allowed (phase-out date)</b> |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%   | 2025   |
| 2 | 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, except those used for research and development purposes                                     |  |
| 3 | Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are > 30 watts   | 2026   |
| 4 | Compact fluorescent lamps with a non-integrated ballast (CFL.ni) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner   |  |
| 5 | Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes:<br>(a) Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 10 mg per lamp<br>(b) Halophosphate phosphor > 40 watts   |  |
| 6 | Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes:<br>(a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg/lamp<br>(b) Triband phosphor ≥ 60 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg per lamp<br>(c) Triband phosphor ≥ 60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp | 2027   |
| 7 | Non-linear fluorescent lamps (NFLs) (e.g., U-bend and circular) for general lighting purposes:<br>(a) Triband phosphor, all wattages   | 2027   |
|   | (b) Halophosphate phosphor, all wattages   | 2026   |
| 8 | Cosmetics, including skin-lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe substitute preservatives are available*  | 2025   |

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\* The intention is not to cover cosmetics, soaps or creams with trace contaminants of mercury