



Developing technical guidance for the implementation of the Minamata Convention

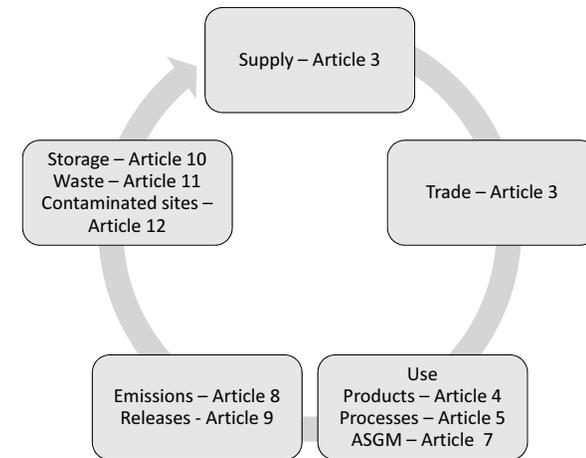
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

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1. Minamata Convention on Mercury

- **Objectives:** to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.
- **Provisions cover the entire life cycle of mercury**



2. Development of technical guidance

	COP-1 (2017)	COP-2 (2018)	COP-3 (2019)
Article 3 (supply and trade)	Guidance and formats on import consent		
Article 4 (Mercury-added products)			Plan for review of Annex A
Article 5 (Manufacturing processes)			Plan for review of Annex B
Article 7 (ASGM)	Guidance on national action plans		
Article 8 (Emissions)	Guidance on BAT/BEP and inventory		
Article 9 (Releases)			List of relevant sources
Article 10 (Interim storage)		Guidance	
Article 11 (Mercury waste)			Mercury waste thresholds
Article 12 (Contaminated sites)			Guidance

3. Intersessional work for COP-3

- **Harmonized System codes:** Secretariat, in cooperation with the Global Mercury Partnership, developed a report on approaches for customs codes to identify non-mercury-added and mercury-added products listed in annex A.
- **Releases:** An expert group prepared a report on significant anthropogenic point source categories not addressed in other provisions of the Convention.
- **Mercury waste thresholds:** An expert group met in May 2019 to work on the establishment of mercury waste thresholds under article 11.
- **Contaminated sites:** Secretariat revised the draft guidance on the management of contaminated sites submitted to COP-2.
- **Effectiveness evaluation:** The ad-hoc expert group met in April 2019 to develop a report.

4. Releases

- Expert group developed a preliminary list of potentially relevant point source categories.
- The report includes a proposed road map between COP-3 and COP-4

Secretariat to circulate a call to submit existing information on the methodologies for the estimation of releases from the identified source categories.	January 2020
Secretariat to draft general guidance for release inventories, based on available tools, including the mercury inventory toolkit.	March 2020
Expert Group to review the submissions and draft general guidance. The group will advise the secretariat on any potential further information collection.	April 2020
Draft general guidance to be posted on the Convention website for comment.	May 2020
Further information collection as advised by the Group.	May–Aug 2020
Secretariat to compile the information on release estimation methodologies.	Sep 2020
The Group to revise the draft general guidance and to review the information on release estimation methodologies before posting it on the Convention website.	Sep– Nov 2020
Further information collection including through pilot use by several parties of the guidance in order to identify specific relevant sources and estimate mercury releases.	Dec 2020 – March 2021
The Group to review the outcome of the pilot process and other technical information.	April 2021
Draft report including the proposed categories of point source of releases and the road map for selection of point source categories and development of guidance on BAT/BEP, to be posted on the Convention website.	May 2021
Report to COP-4 finalized.	July 2021

5. Mercury waste thresholds – report from the expert group

- No need of thresholds for
 - “waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds” (comprehensive list developed)
 - “waste containing mercury or mercury compounds”. (end-of-life mercury-added products)
- Threshold using total mercury content should be used for “waste contaminated with mercury and mercury compounds”.
 - One proposal – 25 mg/kg, derived from the classification under Globally Harmonised System (GHS), based on aquatic environmental toxicity data.
- Tailings from mining (other than primary mercury mining) – two tiered approach using total mercury and leaching test.

6. Draft guidance on the management of contaminated sites

- Site identification and characterization
- Engaging the public
- Human health and environmental risk assessments
- Options for managing the risks posed by contaminated sites
 - Site management - restricting site access, restricting activities that might mobilize the contamination, etc.
 - Site remediation - soil treatment, water treatment, groundwater treatment, sediment treatment, etc
- Evaluation of benefits and costs
- Validation of outcomes
- Cooperation between and among parties

7. Effectiveness evaluation

- Draft report available on the Convention website for comments until 5 September.
- COP-3 will consider effectiveness evaluation framework and global monitoring arrangements.

