

Comments of Thailand on
Draft report on possible mechanisms for consideration by the third meeting
of the Conference of the Parties to identify and distinguish non-mercury-added
and mercury-added products listed in annex A to the Minamata Convention
on Mercury based on the Harmonized Tariff System

Thailand supports possible mechanisms based on the Harmonized Tariff System proposed by the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Global Mercury Partnership to identify and distinguish between non-mercury-added and mercury-added products listed in Annex A of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. While such mechanisms shall be submitted for further support from the World Customs Organization, which would be useful, the effects that may have on customs agencies' operations should also be considered, particularly in the areas of inspection and release of cargo where non-mercury added and mercury-added products need to be distinguished.

In this regard, Thailand would like to request the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to extend this cooperation and invite the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) to prepare and publish international standards of mercury-free electronic products, or electronic products with limited mercury contents, while paying particular attention to the efficiency and safety of the products' usage. Such international standards would facilitate entrepreneurs in proving the mercury status of their own products, as well as providing assistance to customs agencies' operations.

Thailand believes the aforementioned mechanisms and international standards regarding mercury contents shall benefit all parties to the Minamata Convention, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The realisation of these goals shall lead to further capacity building and added flexibility in the import and export of mercury-added products under Annex A, without creating excessive burdens to prove the amount of mercury contents in accordance with provisions of the Convention's requirements.

On a further, separate note, Thailand would like to request the Secretariat to kindly revise the following in the Draft Report in the title of **Thailand's response to needs of the Basel Convention** (Page 19):

- Line 5-9, please kindly rearrange the order of names of Thai authorities as “Department of Industrial Works (The competent authority of Thailand to the Basel Convention), Department of Foreign Trade, Customs Department, and The Federation of Thai Industries (representing the private sector)”.
- In programme 2, please kindly change it to be “The main task for this working group was to establish the national statistic codes for the specific Basel hazardous wastes (in this case the Basel Codes provided some guidance). The Customs Department will determine the 8-digit HS codes of wastes and the 3-digit statistic codes of wastes will be set to be the 11-digit codes of custom tariff. Finally, the Department will issue the official Customs Department Notification to implement the additional statistic codes. Then the Pollution Control Department also prepared a technical manual on the classification of Basel hazardous wastes by these additional statistic codes in order to facilitate the utilization of these codes.
