

Identification of stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per within Norway

Norway has conducted a systematic endeavour to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory.

To determine if these stocks exist, we followed the guidance document and attempted to identify entities that could hold such stocks:

1. In determining the levels of mercury stocks at any given time, initial actions will rely on the identification of entities that may store or use mercury and related facilities. Such entities and facilities might include:

- (a) Mercury traders that buy and sell, including through imports and exports, mercury or mercury compounds and may have varying amounts on hand at any time;
- (b) Primary mercury mines, which may have stocks of mercury a waiting sale and therefore may have large quantities on hand at certain times, depending on demand;
- (c) Other facilities or activities – for instance recycling – that produce mercury or mercury compounds, including mercury waste treatment facilities, which may also have large stocks on hand, depending on the overall mercury demand or on whether mercury is held pending a final decision on whether it is destined for disposal;
- (d) National Governments, which may have stocks of mercury on hand resulting from the seizure of mercury and from authorized uses such as military storage;
- (e) Production facilities for mercury-added products or facilities that use processes that use mercury or mercury compounds, which may also maintain significant stocks of mercury depending on the supply chain and current demand.

Norway does not have entities that fall in category (b) or (e). Regarding category (a) entities (mercury traders) the imported amounts based on the import permits (also reported to the Minamata secretariat, under article 3, paragraph 6 obligations) are counted in kilograms, not tons. The intended usages fall into the categories of laboratory scale research and usage in product categories (b) and (c) of Annex A. Regarding category (c) entities, Norway only has facilities for waste treatment and non-ferrous metal industry. All stocks generated from them are destined for final disposal and are therefore categorized as waste under article 11 (and excluded from Article 3 reporting obligations). These facilities do not recycle mercury. The possibility of individual stocks exceeding 50 metric tons was therefore excluded. Furthermore, Norway does not have any of the supply sources that could generate stocks exceeding 10 metric tons within its territory (including mercury mining and manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used).