

Burkina Faso and Botswana on behalf of the Africa Region: submission of information related to mercury waste thresholds

Government of Burkina Faso and Botswana

On behalf of the Africa Region, Burkina Faso and Botswana, members of the Bureau representing Africa, appreciate the work accomplished, with the support of the Secretariat, of the Expert Group established by COP 4 under Decision MC-4/6 on thresholds for wastes under Article 11, paragraph 2, subparagraph (c) of the Minamata Convention.

In his letter of 28 October 2022 (MC/ES/2022/178), the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention calls for the submission of relevant information on mercury waste thresholds. Only one country in the region (Uganda) submitted required information.

Taking into account the regulatory requirements in the countries and economic zones with which the region trades, we express our concern on the issue of setting the 25 mg/kg limits.

While recalling that the issue of mercury waste thresholds is of concern to the African region due to the weakness of the technical infrastructure for analysis and control, we thank those countries that have provided information requested by the Executive Secretariat on this subject.

Also, after completing the list of Experts from the Africa region, a cross-cutting assessment of the regulations in force in the countries was initiated the day after the meeting of the Expert Group on Mercury Waste Thresholds held online on 15 December 2022 from 2pm.

The result, presented in the table below, could be used by the Expert Group, if the rules of procedure permit, in their further work, including the face-to-face meeting from 16 to 18 February 2023, scheduled to take place in Geneva.

Online evaluation carried out from 16 to 29 December 2022

County Pays	Legislation/Regulation/Guideline Loi/Réglément/Directive	Leachate Limit Limite de rejet	Content Limit	Notes
Zambia	Environmental Management (Licensing) Regulations Statutory Instrument No. 112 of 2013	0.002 mg/L	NA	Limits for effluent and waste water into aquatic environment
Egypt	The Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency (EEAA) established under the Ministry of Environment (EEAA) by Environment law 4/1994 amended by law 9/2009, amended by law 205/2025, and the associated executive regulation accordingly. The recently established Waste Management Regulatory Authority (WMRA) under the Ministry of Environment (MOE) by law 202/2020 and associated executive regulation 723/2022.	0.001 mg/l This is the limit value for discharging treated waste water into aquatic environment and into underground water	NA	1. All limits values/thresholds are shown in the annexes of the executive regulation of the Egyptian Environment law. 2. All limits values/thresholds are putting the modalities used to control potential Hg pollution, among other pollutants. 3. All limits values/thresholds are compatible and agreed by the legal frameworks of all the relevant developing
		0.1 mg/l This is the limit value for emission from incineration of households and medical waste		
		0.2 mg/l For emission from petrochemical industries		
		0.2 mg/l For emission from production of Hydrochloric acid and Chlorine, and total annual load should not exceed 1gm/ton		
		0.02 mg/l For emission from non-ferrous industries		

		1 mg/l For emission from production of coal		sectors (industry, agriculture, water, energy) including health sector.
		0.5 mg/l For emission from Cement industries		
Ethiopia	Guideline on sewage sludge management in Ethiopia (2020)	- 8 mg/ kg DM for sewage sludge - 1 mg/ kg DM for soil - 0.001 mg/ l for Landfill Class 0	NA	Limiting values of Mercury for soil and sewage sludge in Ethiopia
Guinée (Rep. de)	Loi L/2019/0034/AN portant Code de l'Environnement et Arrêté A/342 2015/MIPMEPSP portant Normes Guinéenne.	Eaux .03g/j Air....02mg/m3 /g/h	0,1g/j. 0.2mg/m3	
Gabon	Arrêté n°198/MRS/E/PN/CENAP portant détermination des valeurs admissibles des éléments à considérer dans l'évaluation de la pollution des eaux résiduaires et prise en considération des articles 1,4 et 5 du Décret n°039/PR/MRSEPN du 10/01/79	0,001 mg/l	NA	Limite supérieure de la teneur dans les eaux résiduaires
Cameroun	The value limit for emission from incineration of waste (Hg and its compound)	0.05-0.1 mg/m ³	NA	
	The value limit for discharging treated waste water from incineration of waste into aquatic areas (Hg and its compound)	0.03 mg/l		
	This is the value limit for discharging treated waste water from landfill	<15 mg/l		
	Concerning pharmaceutical industries and health center, the limit value for discharging treated waste water is:	0.01 mg/l 0.01 mg/l		
	Limit value for emission in atmosphere	0.2 mg/m ³ for emission of Mercury and their compounds (expressed as Hg) with a flow rate D> 1 g/h		
	Limit value of Hg in ambient air is:	1µg/m ³ (Average over one (01) year)		
RDC	Valeur dans les rejets miniers industriels	0.002 mg/L	NA	Un décret fixant les seuils de valeurs des émissions dans l'air est en élaboration
Botswana	BOS 93 :2012 Waste water – Physical, microbiological and chemical requirements - Specifications	0.001 0.02mg/L	NA	Limits for effluent in perennial environments. Limits for effluent in ephemeral and other environments.
Lesotho	NA	NA		Lesotho does not have any regulatory framework on mercury thresholds
Congo	NA	NA		la République du Congo n'a pas eu encore fixé des seuils, ni établit une réglementation
Benin	NA	NA		

NA : Non Applicable