

UGANDA'S INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO DECISION MC-4/5: MERCURY RELEASES

National Regulations or industrial practices relating to the control of mercury releases from relevant sources

The National Initial Minamata Assessments report of 2018, indicated that Uganda has no relevant sources of mercury emissions. All source categories of mercury emissions are covered by the Convention.

However, there are regulations in place to control releases of mercury or mercury compounds to land or water from any sources of mercury emissions in the country.

Existing national regulations and guidelines or industrial practices relating to the control of mercury releases from relevant and other unknown sources in Uganda include the following:

1. Guidelines for the Management of Landfills in Uganda (NEMA, December 2020). These among others cover the following:

i. Environmental Monitoring of a Landfill

Mercury is regarded as one of the Leachate components

ii. Groundwater monitoring

Parameters for analysis for Groundwater monitoring includes mercury in mg/l with no levels indicated but monitored on a quarterly basis.

iii. Surface water monitoring

Mercury (Hg) levels of 0.01 mg/l as an indicator parameters for surface water monitoring on a Quarterly (4 times a year)

iv. Leachate and leachate sediment monitoring

Mercury (Hg) in µg/l and 0.02 mg/kg TS leachate detection limit whereas Leachate Sediment detection limit is 0.2 and is monitored 2 Or 4 times a year

- 2. The National Environment (Standards for Discharge of Effluent into Water or Land) Regulations, S.I. No. 144/2020**, which provides a maximum permissible limit for mercury in effluent discharged to the environment.

-Total metal includes: arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, gold, lead, mercury nickel, selenium, silver and vanadium.

-Schedule 3—Standards for Inorganic Substances Effluent Discharge

-Mercury has Maximum permissible Limit of 0.01 mg/L

-Schedule 5 — Permit to Discharge Effluent into Water or Land

3. National Environment (Waste Management) Regulations, S.I. No. 49/2020, provides for characterization of waste containing mercury or mercury compounds

- 3. The National Environment Act No.5 of 2019**, which requires that regulations and criteria is developed for the management of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes (s74 & 179). These regulations are currently under development.
- 4. East African Standard for Air Quality Specification EAS 751:2020**

The following regulations are also under development and near completion:

- 1. The National Environment (Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Containing Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations, Draft of June 2022**

These will among others cover the management of mercury or mercury compounds, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium and products containing mercury, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium; and the management of transboundary movement of hazardous chemicals and products containing hazardous chemicals.

The same regulations will cover management of hazardous chemical waste through the following:

- A person who imports, manufactures, formulates, re-packages, stores, sells, distributes, exports, re-exports, uses or disposes hazardous chemicals and products containing hazardous chemicals shall manage hazardous chemical waste in accordance with the Act, the National Environment (Waste Management)

Regulations, 2020, the Petroleum (Waste Management) Regulations, 2019, and any other written law.

- A person handling a product or article upon becoming waste, consisting of, containing or contaminated with a chemical regulated by these Regulations, shall manage such waste in a manner protective of human health and the environment, and ensure that such waste shall not be subjected to disposal operations that may lead to recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct reuse or alternative uses of persistent organic pollutants, mercury or other chemical;
- Remediation of contaminated sites, including those contaminated by mercury and mercury-added compounds.

2. The air quality regulations which will provide emission limits.