

Revision of the “Enforcement Order of the Act on Preventing Mercury Pollution of the Environment”

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Chemical Management Policy Division,
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Office of Mercury and International Chemical Management,
Ministry of the Environment

1. Outline

At the 4th and 5th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Amendments to part 1 of Annex A based on Article 4 were adopted and some mercury-added products were included on the list¹. The manufacture of the newly added products shall not be allowed after each phase-out date under Article 4 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Japan, therefore, will designate them as “specified mercury-using product”² stipulated by Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the “Act on Preventing Mercury Pollution of the Environment” and add them to the list of Article 1 of the “Enforcement Order of the Act on Preventing Mercury Pollution of the Environment”³ in alignment with the convention. Because measures have already been taken for seven products⁴⁵, the current revision will cover the rest.

2. The expected date of enforcement

The revision of the “Enforcement Order of the Act on Preventing Mercury Pollution of the Environment” will enter into force from January 1, 2026, January 1, 2027, and January 1, 2028, depending on the phase-out date of the Minamata Convention.

¹ MC-4/3: Review and amendment of annexes A and B to the Minamata Convention on Mercury
https://minamataconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/decision/4_Dec3_Amendment.English.pdf

MC-5/4: Amendments to annexes A and B and the feasibility of mercury-free alternatives for manufacturing processes listed in annex B
https://minamataconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/decision/UNEP-MC-COP.5-Dec.4_Amendments-Annex-A_English.pdf

² Act on Preventing Mercury Pollution of the Environment on Japanese Law Translation site
<https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/ja/laws/view/3232/tb>

³ Enforcement Order of the Act on Preventing Mercury Pollution of the Environment on Japanese Law Translation site
<https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/en/laws/view/4280>

⁴ Switches and relays, Cosmetics, Strain gauges to be used in plethysmographs, Mercury vacuum pumps, Tyre balancers and wheel weights, Photographic film and paper, and Propellant for satellites and spacecraft.

⁵ G/TBT/N/JPN/491

<https://eping.wto.org/en/Search?domainIds=1&countryIds=C392&freeText=mercury%20order%20cosmetics%20minamata%20switch%20ministry%20of%20economy%20Enforcement%20Order%20of%20the%20Act%20on%20Preventing%20Mercury%20Pollution%20of%20the%20Environment&distributionDateFrom=2015-06-01&distributionDateTo=2015-10-21&viewData=G%2FTBT%2FN%2FJPN%2F491>

G/TBT/N/JPN/779

<https://eping.wto.org/en/Search?documentSymbol=%09%20G%2FTBT%2FN%2FJPN%2F779&freeText=mercury&viewData=G%2FTBT%2FN%2FJPN%2F779>

Specified mercury-using products	Entry Date
Button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 1% ⁶ and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%	1.1.2026
Compact fluorescent lamps with an integrated ballast (CFL.i) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner	1.1.2026
Cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFL) and external electrode fluorescent lamps (EEFL) of all lengths for electronic displays, not included in the listing directly below. (a) short length (≤ 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp (b) medium length (> 500 mm and ≤ 1 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp (c) long length (> 1 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 13 mg per lamp	1.1.2026
The following electrical and electronic measuring devices, except those installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available: (a) Melt pressure transducers, melt pressure transmitters and melt pressure sensors	1.1.2026
Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are > 30 watts	1.1.2027
Compact fluorescent lamps with a non-integrated ballast (CFL.ni) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner	1.1.2027
Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 10 mg per lamp (b) Halophosphate phosphor > 40 watts	1.1.2027
Non-linear fluorescent lamps (NFLs) (e.g., U-bend and circular) for general lighting purposes: (b) Halophosphate phosphor, all wattages	1.1.2027
Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg per lamp (b) Triband phosphor ≥ 60 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5mg per lamp (c) Triband phosphor ≥ 60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5mg per lamp	1.1.2028
Non-linear fluorescent lamps (NFLs) (e.g., U-bend and circular) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor, all wattages	1.1.2028

3. Purpose

To protect human health from mercury and to maintain the integrity of the living environment and to ensure the reliable and smooth implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury through international cooperation, it is necessary to take measures to regulate the manufacture of specified mercury-using products and their usage as components in the manufacture of other products.

⁶ “silver oxide batteries (limited to those with a mercury content of less than one percent by weight that are button batteries)” are already Specified Mercury-using Products on the Enforcement Order (<https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/en/laws/view/4280>)