

Storage Options for Mercury Wastes

Norway ODA Mercury Storage and Disposal Project in the Caribbean

Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

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Basel Guidelines for Storage

- **R14 – Accumulation of material intended for operations R4, R5, R8 or R12:** Mercury wastes may be accumulated with intent to conduct recycling/reclamation or recovery . Such storage is often regulated at the national level, where specific time periods may be set after the expiry of which the mercury wastes must be transported to the appropriate recycling/reclamation or recovery facility.
- Often referred to as Interim or Short-term storage

Useful Criteria for siting and design of storage facilities

- not built in sensitive locations (floodplains, earthquake zones *etc.*), unless technical and legal conditions are sufficient to ensure the ESM of facilities in the area in question
- floors covered with mercury-resistant material
- constant, low temperature
- storage area clearly marked with warning signs

Types of Storage Facilities

- **on-site at industrial facilities** pending collection, recovery operations or disposal operations
- **on-site in public institutions** pending collection, recovery operations or disposal operations
- **off-site in suitable centralized hazardous waste management facilities** pending disposal
- **off-site in dedicated facilities** specially equipped for storage of mercury for a long period of time pending disposal

R 14 Storage

- Mercury wastes are usually stored for a regulated maximum period of time.
- Storage may be possible in existing commercial or industrial secured hazardous waste storage facilities
- Storage in centralized facilities may require amending existing regulations or drafting specific regulations covering R14 storage
- Storage in hospitals, schools and labs each present management challenges
- Storage facilities need to be able to withstand climatic events