

Update of the Basel Convention Technical Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes Consisting of Elemental Mercury and Wastes Containing or Contaminated with Mercury

Secretariat of the Basel Convention
10 December 2013



Outline of Presentation

- Background of development of the Technical Guidelines
- Contents of the Technical Guidelines
- Mandate and schedule for updating the Technical Guidelines
- Items to be updated after the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury



Background of the Technical Guidelines

- **Goal of the Basel Convention**
 - To protect human health and the environment from the adverse impacts of hazardous and other wastes from the generation, transboundary movements and management
- **Start of the preparation of the Technical Guidelines**
 - **Decision VIII/33 of COP8 (Nov./Dec. 2006)**
 - Agreed to develop guidelines on ESM of mercury waste with emphasis on sound disposal and remediation practices
 - Draft table of contents developed (Feb. 2007)
 - MOU signed with IGES, Japan to develop the Technical Guidelines (July 2007)



Background of the Technical Guidelines

- **Discussions on the Technical Guidelines**
 - Draft Technical Guidelines presented to the OEWG meetings (Sep. 2007 and May 2010) and COPs (Jun. 2008 and Oct. 2011)
 - Small Intersessional Working Group established
 - Comments invited by Parties and other stakeholders
- **Adoption of the Technical Guidelines**
 - 7th draft adopted with some changes at COP10 (Oct. 2011)



Contents of the Technical Guidelines (1/3)

Subchapter	Contents
General concept of ESM	Definitions by the Basel Convention and OECD, Life-cycle management of mercury
Legislative and regulatory framework	Major items provided by laws and regulations <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Registration of waste generators2. Reduction and phase-out of mercury in products and industrial processes3. Transboundary movement requirements4. Authorization and inspection of disposal facilities
Identification and inventory	Identification (sources and types of mercury wastes) Necessity of preparing inventories
Sampling, analysis and monitoring	Methods of liquid, solid and gas sampling; analysis of mercury in waste, flue gas and wastewater; monitoring of effects of the management of hazardous waste

Contents of the Technical Guidelines (2/3)

Subchapter	Contents
Waste prevention and minimization	Principles of waste prevention and minimization in ASGM, VCM production, and chlor-alkali production and for mercury-added products
Handling, separation, collection, packaging, labelling, transportation and storage	Key points and technical/operational considerations by waste type (elemental mercury, mercury-added products, wastes contaminated with mercury) *Storage after collection before disposal
Environmentally sound disposal	Recovery operations, Operations not leading to recovery of elemental mercury
Reduction of mercury releases from thermal treatment and disposal of waste	Key points to reduce mercury emissions from thermal treatment facilities and mercury releases from landfills

Contents of the Technical Guidelines (3/3)

Subchapter	Contents
Remediation of contaminated sites	Methods to identify/remedy contaminated sites and emergency response
Health and safety	Employers' responsibilities to ensure health and safety of employees engaged in mercury waste management, basic knowledge required for employees
Emergency response	Items to be included in emergency response plans, special considerations for spillage of elemental mercury
Awareness and participation	Importance of awareness and participation in implementing ESM of mercury wastes, examples of programs for public awareness and participation

Mandate and schedule for updating the Technical Guidelines

- Update of the Technical Guidelines mandated by decision BC11/5 at COP11 (May 2013)
- Schedule for updating
 - 30 June 2013: nomination of lead country (← Japan) and experts to participate in the SIWG
 - 31 December 2013: draft updated technical guidelines for publication on the SBC website
 - 31 March 2014: comments by Parties and relevant stakeholders
 - OEWG9: discussion on revised draft updated technical guidelines



Items to be updated

- Reflection of the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
 - Relationship of the technical guidelines with the Minamata Convention
 - Wording of mercury wastes: e.g. wastes consisting of elemental mercury → wastes consisting of mercury or mercury compounds
 - Adding examples of entry of mercury wastes (A4100: wastes from industrial pollution control devices for cleaning of industrial off-gases and A4140: waste consisting of or containing off specification or outdated 15 chemicals)
 - Adding the Minamata Convention in “International Linkage”



Items to be updated

- Reflection of the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
 - Adding relevant provisions
 - Threshold of mercury quantity in mercury waste to be adopted by COP of the Minamata Convention
 - Not allowing manufacture, export and import of mercury-added products listed in Annex A
 - Applying the Basel Convention to transboundary movement of mercury waste
 - Guidance on management of contaminated sites to be adopted by COP of the Minamata Convention



Items to be updated

- Reflection of the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
 - Including sources of mercury wastes referred to in the Minamata Convention in Table 2
 - Production of sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate
 - Skin lightening soaps and creams
 - Adding information on waste prevention and minimization in the production processes for which reduction of emissions/releases and use of mercury are required (Annex B of the Minamata Convention)
 - Adding mercury content limits of products according to those allowed under the Minamata Convention



Items to be updated

- Reflection of updates of relevant activities
 - Amendment of Heavy Metal Protocol in 2012
 - SAICM activities after 2012
- New information (if available)
 - Regulations on management of waste dental amalgam
 - Another type of specially engineered landfills
 - Technical standards for permanent storage
- Updates of information
 - EU Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive → Industrial Emissions Directive
 - Global mercury consumption
 - Number of mercury-cell chlor-alkali production facilities and their production capacities
 - Newer references
 - URL for references





Thank you for your attention!

Please provide your comments on the draft updated technical guidelines on mercury wastes to be uploaded by 31 December 2013 on the Secretariat of the Basel Convention website.