

A close-up photograph of many small, spherical, metallic droplets scattered across a light-colored, textured surface. The droplets are highly reflective, showing bright highlights and dark shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light gray.

Inventory of Mercury Supply, Use, and Trade in the United States

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION
September 29, 2020

Overview

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The Mercury Inventory Reporting Rule

The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (2016), which amends the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), requires EPA to triennially publish an “inventory of mercury supply, use, and trade in the United States.”

Amended TSCA:

- Defines mercury for the purpose of this reporting, as both “elemental mercury” and “a mercury compound.”
- Directs EPA to:
 - Identify any manufacturing processes or products that intentionally add mercury;
 - Recommend actions, including proposed revisions of Federal law or regulations, to achieve further reductions in mercury use; and
 - Coordinate with the Interstate Mercury Education and Reduction Clearinghouse (IMERC) to avoid duplication.
- Authorizes EPA to develop a reporting rule to collect information.

The Mercury Inventory Reporting Rule

- The final rule published on June 27, 2018.
- Reporting requirements under the final rule apply to “any person” who:
 - Manufactures (including imports) mercury;
 - Manufactures (including imports) mercury-added products; and/or
 - Otherwise intentionally uses mercury in a manufacturing process.
- An initial inventory published in the Federal Register on March 29, 2017.
 - Initial inventory noted data gaps with currently available information.
 - Starting in April 2020, the publication of triennial inventories will be supported by the information collected via the reporting rule.
 - Available at:
<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPPT-2017-0127-0002>

What Information Must Be Reported?

- Interpretations of “supply, use, and trade” under the final rule:



Supply – Manufactured or stored mercury.



Use – Mercury used to manufacture mercury-added products or in other manufacturing processes.



Trade – Mercury or mercury-added products that were imported, exported, or distributed in commerce.

- Data required to be reported include:
 - Amount of mercury produced, imported, stored, used, sold, or exported (no matter how small the amount);
 - Types of mercury-added products made;
 - Types of manufacturing processes and how mercury is used;
 - Business sectors to which mercury or mercury-added products are sold;
 - Country of origin of imported mercury or mercury-added products; and
 - Destination country for exported mercury or mercury-added products.

Who Must Report?

Types of Submitters

- In general, a person must report mercury information to EPA if their company did any of the following with any amount of mercury for the purpose of obtaining an immediate or eventual commercial advantage:
 - Manufactured (recovered) or imported mercury;
 - Manufactured or imported a mercury-added product; and/or
 - Otherwise intentionally used mercury in a manufacturing process.
- Companies, organizations, and individuals who report on mercury to the EPA Chemical Data Reporting (CDR) program or to IMERC during an EPA mercury inventory reporting year must also report.
 - However, the mercury inventory reporting requirements and the Mercury Electronic Reporting (MER) application are designed to prevent overlapping reporting to the extent feasible.
- There are exceptions to the reporting requirements for persons who:
 - Do not first manufacture, import, or otherwise intentionally use mercury (e.g., distributors, retailers);
 - Generate, handle, or manage mercury-containing waste, unless they recover (e.g., manufacture) mercury from the waste;
 - Are “domestic product assemblers” who assemble a product in the United States that contains a component that is a mercury-added product and who did not first manufacture or import that component;
 - Manufacture mercury as an impurity; and/or
 - Engage in activities not for the purpose of obtaining an immediate or eventual commercial advantage.

The 2020 Inventory Report

- Published March 30, 2020.
- First report in which the supply, use, and trade of mercury is presented based on data collected by EPA under the mercury inventory reporting rule (40 CFR, Part 713).
- Persons subject to the reporting requirements submitted information directly to EPA via the Mercury Electronic Reporting (MER) application.
- Deadline for reporting mercury information to EPA was July 1, 2019 for reporting activities that occurred in the calendar year 2018.
- Does not draw any comparisons between the initial 2017 inventory and the information reported in the 2020 report.
- Available at:
https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/10006-34_mercury_inventory_report.pdf

The 2020 Inventory Report

Summary of Supply, Use, and Trade of Mercury (2018)

Supply, Use, and Trade of Mercury		Elemental Mercury (lbs)	Mercury Compounds (lbs)	Total ^a (lbs)
Supply	Mercury Manufactured in the United States	72,614	209	72,823
	Stored On-site (max)	150,565	1,410	151,975
	Stored Off-site (max)	0	185	185
Use	Mercury Sold in the United States	72,103	1,393	73,496
	Products Made in the United States	19,840	1,907	21,747
	Products Sold in the United States	8,546	441	8,987
	Mercury Used in a Manufacturing Process	540,538	34	540,572
Trade	Imported Mercury	0	248	248
	Imported Products	1,548	1,458	3,006
	Exported Mercury	0	148	148
	Exported Products	3,867	2,052	5,919

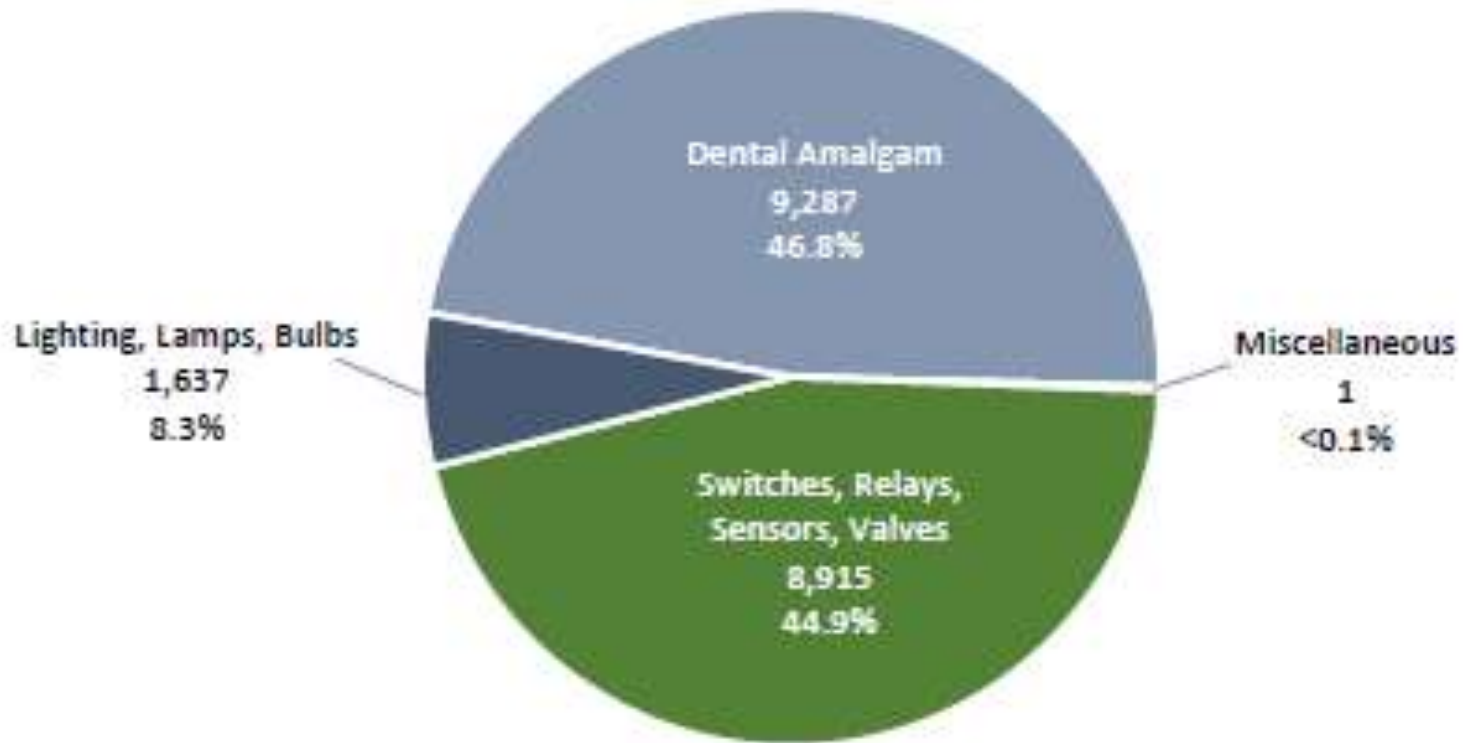
^aA combined total for elemental mercury and mercury compounds is provided as a snapshot of “mercury supply, use, and trade in the United States” (15 U.S.C. § 2607(10)(A) and (B)).

The 2020 Inventory Report

Products Made in the United States – Elemental Mercury			
Product Category and Subcategory	Amount in Products (lbs)		
	Used	Distributed ^a	Exported
Dental Amalgam	9,287	0	2,624
Lighting, Lamps, and Bulbs	1,637	18	362
Compact Fluorescent			
High Pressure Sodium			
Linear Fluorescent			
Mercury Vapor			
Metal Halide			
U-Tube and Circular Fluorescent			
Miscellaneous/Novelty	1		
Plasma Display (Fill Tubes at Seal Pump and Burst at RTV Operation)			
Switches, Relays, Sensors, and Valves	8,915	8,519	315
Displacement Relay			
Float Switch			
Tilt Switch			
Total	19,840	8,537	3,301
^a The range of 2018 data reported to the MER application and 2016 data reported to the IMERC Mercury-added Products Database is presented in the <i>Products Sold in the United States</i> section.			

The 2020 Inventory Report

Products Made in the United States Elemental Mercury (2018)

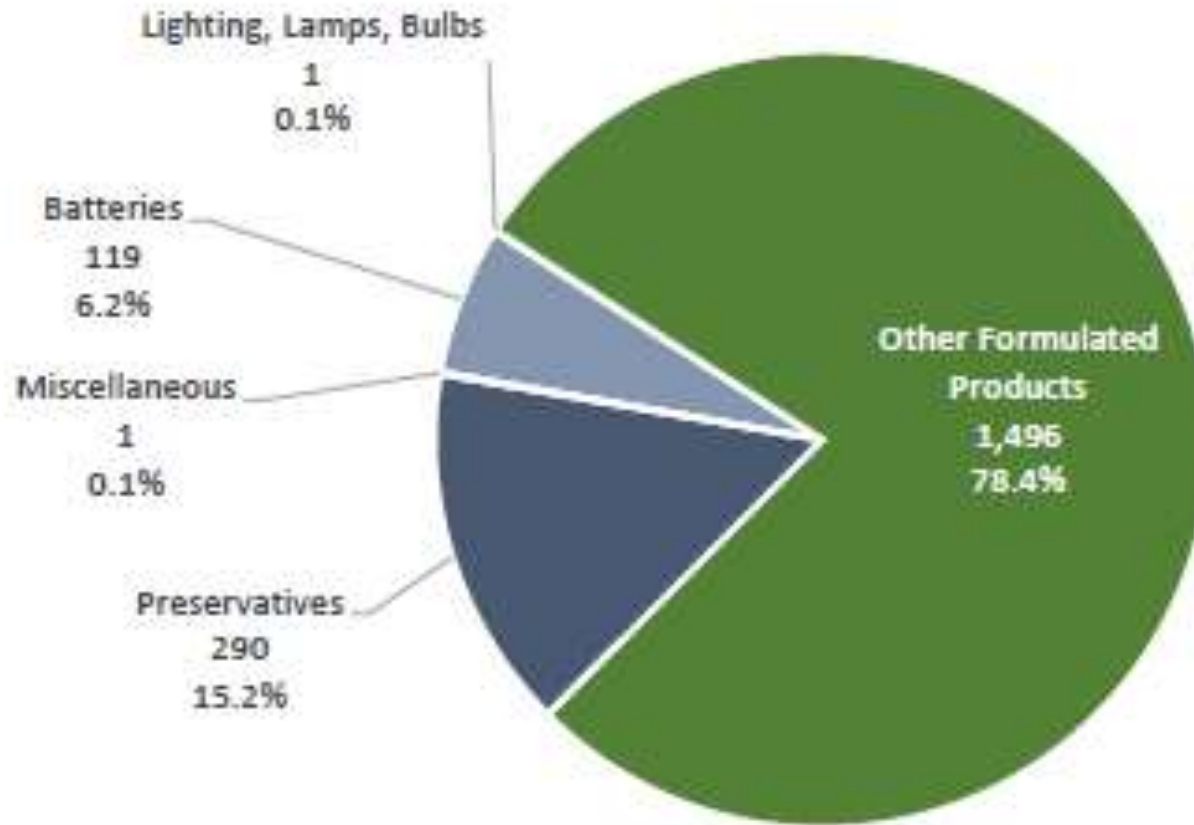


The 2020 Inventory Report

Products Made in the United States – Mercury Compounds			
Product Category and Subcategory	Amount in Products (lbs)		
	Used	Distributed ^a	Exported
Batteries	119	0	0
Silver-Zinc			
Formulated Products	290	151	121
Preservative (Vaccine Usage)			
Other Formulated Products	1,496	85	1,767
In-Vitro Diagnostics			
Pharmaceuticals			
Preservative (Non-Vaccine Usage)			
Reagents (Catalysts, Buffers, and Fixatives)			
Testing Kits			
Lighting, Lamps, and Bulbs	1		1
Electrodeless Discharge			
Miscellaneous/Novelty	1		
Plasma Display (Fill Tubes at Seal Pump and Burst at RTV Operation)			
Total	1,907	236	1,889
^a The range of 2018 data reported to the MER application and 2016 data reported to the IMERC Mercury-added Products Database is presented in the <i>Products Sold in the United States</i> section.			

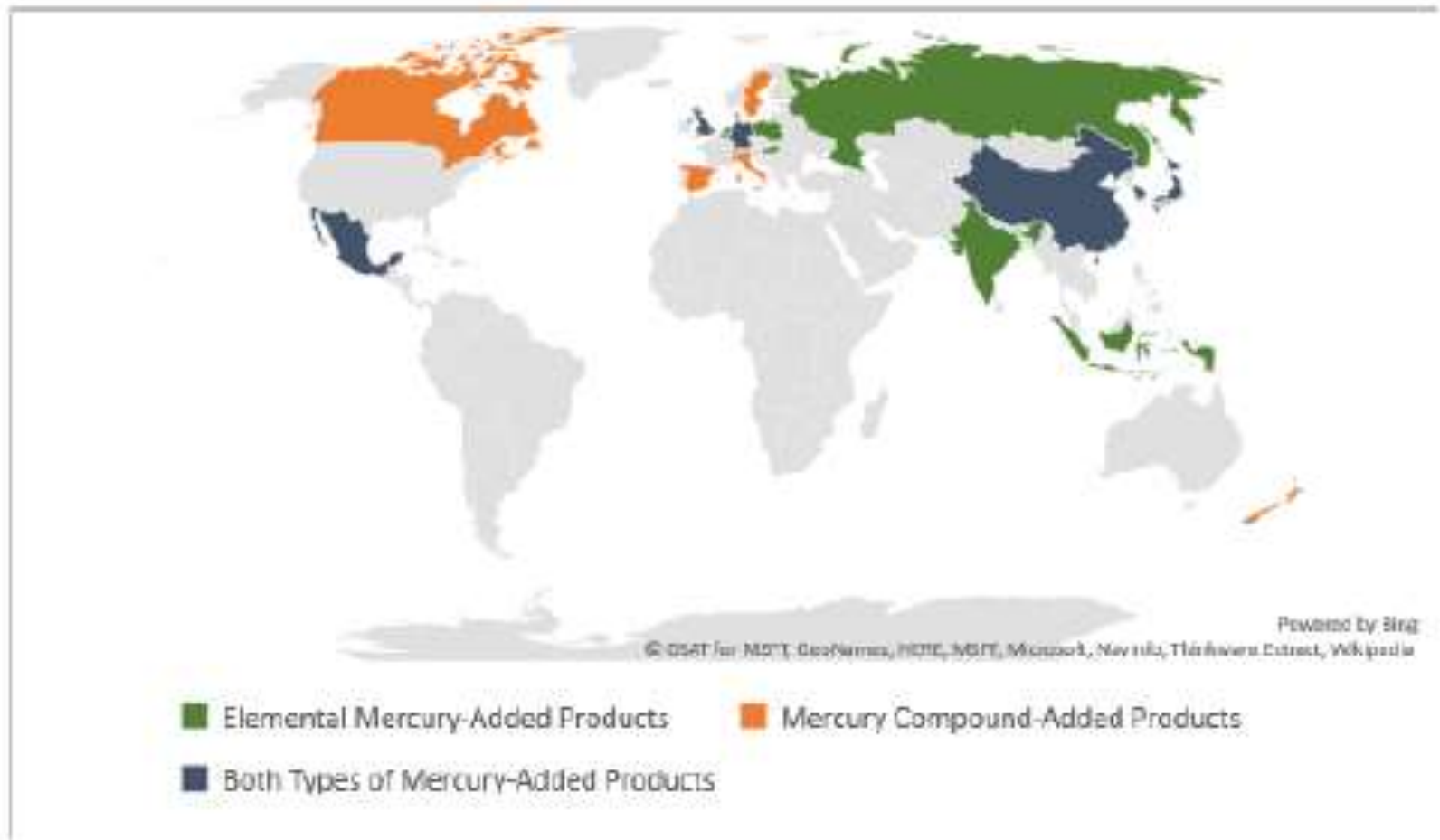
The 2020 Inventory Report

Products Made in the United States Mercury Compounds (2018)



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Countries of Origin for Imported Products (2018)



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Countries of Destination for Exported Products (2018)



The 2020 Inventory Report

- When developing the reporting requirements for the mercury inventory, EPA identified products and manufacturing processes via analysis of accumulated Agency resources and programs, as well as a review of other federal, state, and international materials.
- Through the information submitted under the mercury inventory reporting rule, EPA has identified the following additional uses of mercury in products through the information submitted under the mercury inventory reporting rule:
 - Wheel emblem
 - Lead in water sensor
 - Mercury analyzer
 - Air cylinders
 - Connector pins
 - Mass flow controllers
 - Printed circuit board
 - Motors

The 2020 Inventory Report

- After identifying processes and products that intentionally add mercury, EPA is to make recommendations for actions to further reduce mercury use.
- EPA will carefully consider the reporting results in light of such factors as quantities of use and availability of safer, cost-effective alternatives and, as appropriate, will not hesitate to recommend future legal or regulatory actions in accordance with the statute.
- In addition, EPA will continue to implement U.S. obligations under the Minamata Convention on Mercury and to participate in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, both of which are designed to reduce the adverse effects of mercury.

Where Can I Find More Information?

Visit EPA's Mercury Inventory Reporting Rule page:

[www.epa.gov/mercury/reporting-requirements-mercury-inventory-toxic-substances-control-act.](http://www.epa.gov/mercury/reporting-requirements-mercury-inventory-toxic-substances-control-act)

Find frequent questions on the final rule and inventory:

[www.epa.gov/mercury/frequent-questions-about-epas-mercury-inventory-reporting-rule.](http://www.epa.gov/mercury/frequent-questions-about-epas-mercury-inventory-reporting-rule)

Read the compliance guide supporting rule requirements:

[www.epa.gov/mercury/resources-mercury-inventory-reporting-rule.](http://www.epa.gov/mercury/resources-mercury-inventory-reporting-rule)