



Reference: O242-1731

10/06/2015

## Submission of Switzerland

### Information to support the further work of the INC on the Minamata Convention on mercury and COP 1.

#### Article 3 – Mercury supply sources and trade

**Additional information relevant to the development of draft guidance** on the identification of individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons, as well as sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year, drawing on the factors identified in the meeting document UNEP (DTIE)/HG/INC/6.9.

*Switzerland proposes to list the following additional sources generating mercury stocks to the ones mentioned in doc UNEP (DTIE)/HG/INC/6.9*

- *Government agencies (i.e., agencies managing strategic minerals, agencies managing abandoned industrial facilities, military agencies)*
- *Mercury or mercury compound traders (i.e., companies exporting or importing elemental or commodity grade mercury, or mercury compounds)*
- *Natural gas production facilities*
- *Mercury cell chlor-alkali facilities*
- *Mercury product manufacturers, including but not limited to manufacturers of mercury-added measuring devices and mercury oxide batteries.*
- *Mercury compound and catalyst producers*
- *Disposal sites where elemental mercury or mercury compounds can be retrieved for use in commerce*

*The following approaches should be identified through which potential stock can be determined:*

- *Visual inspection*
- *Records assessment (revenue, sales, etc.)*
- *Process design capacity (i.e., design capacity of retort, roaster)*
- *In the case of cinnabar, area of unprocessed ore*

1. Are there additional elements within the guidance referred to in para 12 of Art 3, not covered by either the guidance on the forms or that for stocks?  
Was such additional guidance needed or not? And what should be the nature of such guidance?

*Switzerland would like to underline that the guidance document is of great importance and needs to be considered as integral part of the PIC procedure.*

*Through the third section of the guidance additional information should be made available enabling parties to make an informed decision on providing the consent or not for any*

*import. Therefore the guidance should assist countries to get access to the following sources of information:*

*The register for exemptions for the products and processes administrated by the Secretariat. This would allow Parties to see which exemptions are registered by which party and for what period of time.*

*The parts in the national reporting relevant for providing a written consent on the import of mercury articles.*

### **Article 7 – ASGM**

Government with experience in drafting national action plans are encouraged to submit comments on their experience.

*Switzerland supports a project that enhances the as sustainable gold production from ASGM to the market. The initiative assists miners in meeting the social and environmental standards when mining gold. This allows them to get certified according to international standards such as Fair Mined, Fairtrade Gold und or set by the Responsible Jewellery Council. The use of Mercury is steadily minimized. The Gold is exported to Switzerland where the market for so such fair-minded gold is increasing. Last year about 500 kg were imported.*

### **Article 10 Environmentally sound storage of mercury, other than waste mercury**

Information on sound mercury interim storage practices that CH has adopted and successfully implemented.

Based on the info submitted the Secretariat will identify in collaboration with the BC secretariat and relevant experts those parts of the technical guidelines for esm of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and waste containing or contaminated with mercury developed under the Basel Convention that might be relevant to the interim storage of mercury other than mercury waste; and to propose a road map for work on interim storage guidelines.

*Switzerland considers as key to set the conditions and requirements to be met for the interim storage of Hg. They could to a large extend be the same as the one for the final disposal. Interim and final storage facilities should were feasible shared within the region.*

*The following requirements could be set for the interim and final storage*

- *Inventory of the amount of stored mercury*
- *Monitoring of the storage*
- *Labour safety standards are met*
- *Environmental sound management is ensured*
- *Risk and disaster management in place*
- *Threshold of mercury to be allowed in such storage*
- *Required form of Mercury to be stored (e.g. in flasks)*
- *Regular reporting about all the requirements*
- *..*

*These requirements should be considered when authorities provide licenses to interim and final disposal facilities.*

*The country should on regular basis (every COP) report to the Secretariat how their interim and final storage facilities fulfill these requirements.*

*A revision of the Mercury guidelines adopted by the Basel COP 12 needs to be done in cooperation with the intersessional working group on technical guidelines established under the BC. The INC-7 could request the group to invite as well Minamata experts.*

### **Article 11 – mercury wastes**

Info on the use of mercury waste thresholds and the level established.

*The definition of hazardous waste in Switzerland refers to the hazardous characteristics of the Basel Convention. In practice and in accordance to the interim guide line of the Basel Convention for H13 the threshold values of the Technical Ordinance on the Treatment of Waste and the Ordinance on the Remediation of Contaminated Sites are applied. The relevant threshold values for mercury in non-aqueous wastes is 5 mg/kg and in aqueous wastes 0.01 mg/l.*

*Hazardous wastes must be handed over separately to an authorized company using the required movement document.*

*The companies that receive hazardous waste are authorized by the competent authority if it is proven that the waste is treated in an environmentally sound way. For the assessment the relevant guide line of the Basel Convention should be considered.*

### **Article 22 – Effectiveness Evaluation**

Information on the availability of monitoring data

This will be used to prepare a compilation and analysis of the means of obtaining monitoring data for consideration by the committee at its seventh session, with an emphasis on the capacity-building needs of DC and CEIT to the role played by the regional activities and to the value of partnerships.

*Switzerland has no general monitoring data. We have data on hotspots, where we have contaminated soils (Lonza => Wallis) due to sediment dredging and applying on agricultural land and private properties. And some old data on fish etc. No plans yet on if and how monitoring can or will be established in Switzerland.*

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