

Follow-up information from Uganda, with regard to the decisions adopted by the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (COP-4)

- a) Additional information on mercury-added products, mercury-using manufacturing processes and their alternatives that may support consideration of the addition of products and processes pursuant to decision MC-4/3 by the Conference of the Parties at its 5th meeting.

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) requested Government agencies (Uganda National Bureau of Standards, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, National Drug Authority and Uganda National Meteorological Authority) in a letter (Ref NEMA/9.5.1) dated 16th June 2022, to share information relating to mercury-added products, mercury-using manufacturing processes and their alternatives. This would enable the focal institution to transmit comprehensive information to the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Table 1.0: Information on mercury-added products, mercury-using manufacturing processes and their alternatives

S/N	Area	Additional information (interventions & mercury free alternatives)	Recommendation
1	Mercury-added products	In 2016 Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) banned the manufacture, importation and sale of cosmetics that contain mercury	Existing mercury free skin products include petroleum jellies, mercury free creams and soaps
		National Drug Authority (NDA) restricts importation of mercury containing products enforced through importation control of medical devices and	Digital thermometers are existing alternatives

	<p>pharmaceuticals at major airports and border points. Medical equipment such as mercury containing thermometers are no longer imported.</p>	
	<p>NDA is finalizing a policy on destruction of medical waste including that containing mercury. Currently, destruction of obsolete pharmaceuticals and medical devices in general and specifically those containing mercury is done through incineration at approved locations.</p>	N/A
	<p>Given the increasing awareness on use of dental amalgam, NDA is in the process of classifying it as a drug so that its importation and use is regulated. Previously it was not imported as a drug.</p>	Widely used alternatives to dental amalgam include composite
	<p>NDA has phased down importation and use of vaccines containing mercury. NDA is in the process of phasing out use of thiomersal</p>	Thiomersal may be listed for phasing down and out
	<p>The National Environment Act, 2019 prohibits use of mercury. In addition, regulations to strengthen the law are being developed.</p>	N/A
	<p>UNBS is developing codes of practices for un-listed mercury</p>	N/A

		product use throughout the life cycle	
2	mercury-using manufacturing processes	UNBS regulates mercury in food products through testing e.g carbonated and non-carbonated soft drinks; animal feeds; water and fertilizers	mercury-using manufacturing processes for human and animal food products may be listed
		Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) developed the Mining and Minerals Bill, which became law on 28 th October 2022. This Act classifies mercury as a hazardous chemical and prohibits its use in the Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining sector.	N/A
		NEMA spearheaded the development of The National Environment Act, 2019 prohibits use of mercury. In addition, hazardous chemicals regulations to strengthen the law are being developed.	N/A
		NEMA developed a data base on all hazardous chemicals in order to find track their use and phase them out where appropriate.	N/A
		Production of polyurethane using mercury-containing catalysts is used in a wide range of products like adhesives, mattress production. When products get exposed to UV, abrasions etc mercury is releases	Production of polyurethane using mercury-containing catalysts may be listed

		was reported	
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Conclusion

An inventory of mercury free alternatives may be necessary as majority of agencies have scanty information.

Compiled by Anne Nakafeero

Senior District Support Officer

National Environment Management Authority

Uganda