



**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Fourth meeting**

Online, 1–5 November 2021*

Item 4 (a) (iv) of the provisional agenda**

**Matters for consideration or action by the
Conference of the Parties: mercury-added
products and manufacturing processes in which
mercury or mercury compounds are used:
proposals for amendments to annexes A and B**

**Proposals for amendments to annexes A and B to the Minamata
Convention on Mercury**

Addendum

**Proposal by Canada and Switzerland to amend part I of annex A
to the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

Note by the secretariat

1. As is indicated in the note by the secretariat on proposals for amendments to annexes A and B to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (UNEP/MC/COP.4/26), Canada and Switzerland submitted to the secretariat a proposal to amend part I of annex A to the Convention.
2. The proposal is set out in annex I to the present note, while an explanatory note is set out in annex II. The annexes are presented as received, without formal editing. The explanatory note is provided in English only.

* The resumed fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury is to convene in person in Bali, Indonesia, and is tentatively scheduled for the first quarter of 2022.

** UNEP/MC/COP.4/1.

Annex I

Proposal by Canada and Switzerland to amend part I of annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

The Minamata Convention takes a lifecycle approach to achieving the objective of protecting human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. This approach includes requiring Parties to not allow the manufacture, import, or export of certain mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A with exemptions for essential uses where no feasible mercury-free alternatives are available.

The products currently listed in Part I of Annex A were the result of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee meetings held between 2010 and 2013. According to paragraph 8 of article 4, the annex shall be reviewed by the Conference of the Parties no later than five years after the date of entry into force.

A review process was initiated at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in November 2019 in decision MC-3/1. The decision included the establishment of an ad hoc expert group and invited Parties to submit information on mercury-added products and their alternatives. Through this process, Canada submitted information on a number of mercury-added products and their alternatives as did many other Parties. In consideration of the submissions made by others and the feedback of the ad hoc expert group, Canada and Switzerland are proposing to add three new items to Part I of Annex A and remove the existing exemption for “very high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20 mg per bridge, switch or relay”.

Rationale for the proposed amendments

Considering the information collected through Canada’s domestic reporting on import and manufacture as well as information provided by the ad-hoc expert group, there appear to be technically and economically feasible mercury-free alternatives to mercury-containing counter balancers (tire balancers/wheel weights), photographic film and paper, and propellant for satellite and spacecraft. While these products are not widely used, adding them to Annex A would help to prevent their re-emergence, or in some cases, introduction as new uses.

In the case of removing the 20 mg maximum content limit for high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches, we understand that these products are no longer used in the majority of parties. Should there still be a need for highly specialized uses of these switches and relays, and feasible mercury-free alternatives are not available, it is expected that these specialized uses would still be allowed as they would fall under the exclusions in paragraph (c) in the chapeau of Annex A.

Canada and Switzerland propose a phase-out date of 2025 for these products to allow time for parties to put in place relevant domestic requirements, if needed.

Proposal for new entries into Annex A: Part I: Products subject to Article 4, paragraph 1:

<i>Mercury-added products</i>	<i>Date after which the manufacture, import of export of the product shall not be allowed (phase-out date)</i>
Counter balancing devices including tire balancers and wheel weights	2025
Photographic film and paper	2025
Propellant for satellites and spacecraft	2025
Very high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20 mg per bridge switch or relay	2025

Annex II

Further explanatory note from Canada and Switzerland regarding the proposed amendment to part I of annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Information on availability, technical and economic feasibility, environmental and health risks and benefits of non-mercury alternatives

Pursuant to paragraph 7 of article 4, the following compilation documents presented by the ad hoc group of experts on Review of Annexes A and B, which includes information submitted from Parties and other stakeholders, enriched and organized by experts, were taken into account in drafting the amendment proposal by Canada and Switzerland.

Regarding the proposal on counter balancing devices including tire balancers and wheel weights, photographic film and paper:

Supporting document: compilation_06_other_non_electronic_products

http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/meetings/COP4/submissions/compilation_06_other_non_electronic_products.pdf

Regarding the proposal on propellant for satellites and spacecraft:

Supporting document: compilation_09_satellite_propulsion

http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/meetings/COP4/submissions/compilation_09_satellite_propulsion.pdf

Regarding the proposal on very high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20 mg per bridge, switch or relay:

Supporting document: compilation_02_switches_and_relays

http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/meetings/COP4/submissions/compilation_02_switches_and_relays.pdf