

“Specified mercury-added products” under the Enforcement Order of “Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury”

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1. Background of enactment of the enforcement order

To ensure the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”) as well as to further promote the prevention of environmental pollution caused by mercury, the Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury (Act No. 42 of 2015) bans the manufacture of “specified mercury-added products” designated in the Enforcement Order of the Act and also requires the government to take measures such as permitting the manufacture of “specified mercury-added products” for the uses allowed under the Convention as well as restricting the use of “specified mercury-added products” as components of other products.

And the Enforcement Order of the Act designates product items of the mercury-added products listed in Part 1 of Annex A of the Convention as “specified mercury-added products” the manufacture of which should be especially regulated, and for some of them sets their mercury content limits lower than those in the Convention as well as phase-out dates earlier than those in the Convention.

2. Outline

Products designated as “specified mercury-added products” with corresponding mercury content limits and phase-out dates are listed below.

specified mercury-added products	Phase-out date
Batteries (excluding the following) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Button zinc silver oxide batteries (Button cells with a mercury content less than 1% by weight) • Button zinc air batteries (Button cells with a mercury content less than 2% by weight) 	End of 2017 (End of 2020 for button alkali batteries)
Switches and relays	End of 2020
Signal-ended compact fluorescent lamps and self-ballasted fluorescent lamps for general lighting purposes that are less than or equal to 30 watts of rated power consumption with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner	End of 2017

<p>The followings, among linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products that are less than 60 watts of rated power consumption with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp, using triband phosphor • Products that are equal to or less than 40 watts of rated power consumption with a mercury content exceeding 10 mg per lamp, using halophosphate phosphor 	End of 2017
High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMV) for general lighting purposes	End of 2020
<p>The following cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products whose length is equal to or shorter than 500 mm with a mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp • Products whose length is longer than 500 mm and equal to or shorter than 1500 mm with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp • Products whose length is longer than 1500 mm with a mercury content exceeding 13 mg per lamp 	End of 2017
Cosmetics	End of 2017
Pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics	End of 2017(End of 2020 for topical antiseptics)
<p>The following non-electronic measuring devices except non-electronic measuring devices used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available:</p> <p>(a) barometers (b) hygrometers (c) manometers (d) thermometers (e) sphygmomanometers</p>	End of 2020

3. Planned date of enforcement

January 2018 or December 2020, depending on products