MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

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Republic of Ghana

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August 9, 2017

HON MINISTER
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTEGRATION
ACCRA

ATTN: DIRECTOR, MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

Dear Madam,

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY: REQUEST FOR EXEMPTIONS

Ghana signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury in September 2014 and ratified it on 23rd March 2017.

According to Article 6 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, any State or regional economic integration organization may register for one or more exemptions from the phase-out dates listed in Annex A (Mercury-added products) and Annex B (Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used), by notifying the Secretariat in writing on becoming a Party to the Convention. Any such registration shall be accompanied by a statement explaining the Party's need for the exemption. Technically, such countries can only do so before **16th August 2017**, the date on which the Minamata Convention on Mercury enters into force.

After wide consultations with various stakeholders in the country, it has become clear that currently Ghana lacks the requisite data, information, technical and financial capacities to comply with the phase-out dates listed in Annexes A and B of the Minamata Convention.

Ghana has therefore decided to register for five (5) years exemption from all the phase-out dates listed in Annex A (Mercury-added products) and Annex B (Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used) of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

We wish to request the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs to notify the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention in Geneva, Switzerland, on Ghana's decision to register for exemption in line with Article 6 of the Convention. The letter of registration for exemption should be sent to the following address:

The Principal Coordinator
Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
International Environment House 1
11-13 chemin des Anémones, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

Tel.: + 41 (0) 22 917 83 24
Fax: + 41 (0) 22 797 3460
E-mail: mercury.chemicals@unep.org

We thank you for the anticipated cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

SALIMATA ABDUL-SALAM
CHIEF DIRECTOR
for: **MINISTER**

CC:

1. **HEAD OF MISSION**
   GHANA PERMANENT MISSION
   56, RUE DE MOILLESAU
   1209 GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

2. **THE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
   ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
   ACCRA

Proposed format for the registration of exemptions for the products and processes listed in Part I of Annexes A and B

Annex A: Mercury-added products

REGISTRATION OF EXEMPTION FOR ARTICLE 4		
PARTY: GHANA		
The Secretariat of the Minamata Convention is hereby notified of the registration of the following exemption pursuant to paragraph 1 of article 6 of the Convention. No exemption is required for products excluded from Annex A.		
Mercury added products, as listed in Part I of Annex A	**Indicate the category or subcategory for which the exemption is being registered, and whether it is for manufacture, import and/or export.**	**Duration of exemption (if less than five years past the phase-out date)**
Batteries, except for button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%	**For manufacture, import and export**	**5 Years**
Switches and relays, except 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	**For manufacture, import and export**	**5 Years**
Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner	**For manufacture, import and export**	**5 Years**
Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp; (b) Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 watts with a mercury content exceeding 10 mg per lamp	**For manufacture, import and export**	**5 Years**
High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMV) for general lighting purposes	**For manufacture, import and export**	**5 Years**
Mercury in cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays: (a) short length (≤ 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp (b) medium length (> 500 mm and ≤ 1,500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp (c) long length (> 1,500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 13 mg per lamp	**For manufacture, import and export**	**5 Years**

Cosmetics (with mercury content above 1ppm), including skin lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe substitute preservatives are available[1]	**For manufacture, import and export**	**5 Years**
Pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics	**For manufacture, import and export**	**5 Years**
The following non-electronic measuring devices except non-electronic measuring devices installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high-precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available: (a) barometers; (b) hygrometers; (c) manometers; (d) thermometers; (e) sphygmomanometers.	**For manufacture, import and export**	**5 Years**

Please attach the explanatory statement on the need for an exemption, one statement per individual product category listed in Part I of Annex A.

As part of, or in addition to, the explanation of the need for the exemption, a registering Party may include, as appropriate, the following information:

- any timetable or plan of action to phase out the import, export, or manufacture or to adjust manufacturing specifications to comply with the mercury concentrations for products set out in Annex A; and
- information on the level of stocks of the product available nationally.

THIS NOTIFICATION IS SUBMITTED BY:

Job title:	Hon. Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation		
Institution/department:	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation		
Address:	P. O. Box MB 232, Accra, Ghana		
Telephone: +233(0)302662626	Fax: +233(0)302688663	E-mail address:	k.frimpongboateng@mesti.gov.gh
Contact name:	Prof. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng	Date: (*dd/mm/yyyy*)	11/08/2017

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO:

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) International Environment House 11–13, Chemin des Anémones, CH–1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland	Fax: +41 22 797 3460 Email: mercury.chemicals@unep.org

[1] The intention is not to cover cosmetics, soaps or creams with trace contaminants of mercury.

Annex B: Processes that use mercury

REGISTRATION OF EXEMPTION FOR ARTICLE 5

PARTY: GHANA

The Secretariat of the Minamata Convention is hereby notified of the registration of the following exemption pursuant to paragraph 1 of article 6 of the Convention.

Manufacturing processes using mercury or mercury compounds set out in part I of Annex B	**Indicate the category or subcategory for which the exemption is registered.**	**Duration of exemption (if less than five years past the phase-out date)**
Chlor-alkali production	**X**	**5 Years**
Acetaldehyde production in which mercury or mercury compounds are used as a catalyst	**X**	**5 Years**

Please attach an explanatory statement on the need for the exemption, one statement per process category.

As part of, or in addition to, the explanation of the need for the exemption, the registering Party may include, as appropriate, the following information:

- any timetable or plan of action to phase out the use of mercury in facilities; and
- identification of the facilities for which an exemption is being registered, including the capacity of the facilities and the expected annual use of mercury by the facilities.

THIS NOTIFICATION IS SUBMITTED BY:

Job title:	Hon. Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation		
Institution/ department:	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation		
Address:	P. O. Box MB 232, Accra, Ghana		
Telephone: +233(0)302662626	Fax: +233(0)302688663	E-mail address:	k.frimpongboateng@mesti.gov.gh
Contact name:	Prof. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng	Date: (*dd/mm/yyyy*)	11/08/2017

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO:

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) International Environment House 11–13, Chemin des Anémones, CH–1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland	Fax: +41 22 797 3460 Email: mercury.chemicals@unep.org

Proposed format for the register of exemptions from the phase-out dates listed in Part I of Annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Party	*Indicate the specific category/subcategory for which the exemption is registered and whether the exemption is for manufacture, import and/or export.*	*Explanation for the exemption* *As provided (this would be a hyperlink to the statement as provided by the Party)*	*Expiry date for the exemption*[a]
GHANA	**All Annex A (Part I) Products**	Ghana lacks the requite data, information, technical and financial capacities to comply with the phase-out dates listed in Part I of Annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury	**5 Years**

[a] Unless otherwise indicated by the Party, all exemptions expire five years after the relevant phase-out date listed in Part I of Annex A.

Proposed format for the register of exemptions from the phase-out dates listed in Part I of Annex B to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Party	*Specific category/subcategory for which an exemption is registered*	*Explanation for the exemption* *As provided (this would then be a hyperlink to the statement as provided by the Party)*	*Expiry date for the exemption*[a]
GHANA	**All Annex B (Part I) Processes subject to Article 4, Paragraph 3**	Ghana lacks the requite data, information, technical and financial capacities to comply with the phase-out dates listed in Part I of Annex B to the Minamata Convention on Mercury	**5 Years**

[a] Unless otherwise indicated by the Party, all exemptions expire five years after the relevant phase-out date listed in Part I of Annex B.