

Reports on the storage of mercury or mercury compounds according to the Mercury Pollution Prevention Act (FY2020-2023)

I. Background

The Minamata Convention is designed to comprehensively control anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury throughout its lifecycle including mining, trade, use, emissions, releases, disposal and other processes. In order to ensure the implementation of the Convention, Japan has been comprehensively and systematically taking various measures based on laws and regulations, including the Mercury Pollution Prevention Act.

To ensure the implementation of Article 10 of the Convention, the Act on Preventing Mercury Pollution of the Environment requires persons who store mercury or mercury compounds to take appropriate measures to prevent dispersion and leakage of mercury in line with the *Technical Guidelines on Measures to be Taken to Prevent Environmental Pollution due to Storage of Mercury or Mercury Compounds*¹, and regularly report the status of storage to the Competent Ministers.

II. Overview of the Reporting System on the storage of mercury or mercury compounds

Pursuant to Article 21 of the Act on Preventing Mercury Pollution of the Environment, any business place that stores a maximum quantity of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 30 kg at any point during a fiscal year must submit a report on its storage² to the competent minister by the end of June of the following fiscal year. This system also enables 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, as provided in paragraph 5 of Article 3.

III. Summary of the Reports

(i) FY2020 Reports

The summary of the FY2020 reports, which is the fourth report since the enforcement of the Mercury Pollution Prevention Act, is as follows. The reporting period is from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

- Reports on the storage of mercury or mercury compounds were submitted by 73 business places nationwide. The total amount of mercury or mercury compounds stored, was reported to be 81,971 kg.
- By type, 67 reports were on mercury, and seven were on mercury sulfide. One business place

¹ Public Notice of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Ministry of the Environment, and Ministry of Defense No. 1 of 2015

² The amount of mercury or mercury compounds stored at the beginning of the fiscal year (as of the enforcement date for the initial year after the enforcement), the amount manufactured, the amount accepted, the amount used, the amount delivered, the amount that became waste, the amount stored as of the end of the fiscal year, the purpose of the storage, etc.

reported that it had stored both mercury and mercury sulfide. There was no report on the storage of other types of mercury compounds (mercury (I) chloride, mercury (II) oxide, mercury (II) sulphate, mercury (II) nitrate and mercury (II) nitrate hydrate).

- It was confirmed that measures for the environmentally sound storage of mercury and mercury compounds had been taken.

(ii) FY2021 Reports

The summary of the FY2021 reports, which is the fifth report since the enforcement of the Mercury Pollution Prevention Act, is as follows. The reporting period is from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

- Reports on the storage of mercury or mercury compounds were submitted by 65 business places nationwide. The total amount of mercury or mercury compounds stored, was reported to be 108,375 kg.
- By type, 60 reports were on mercury, and six were on mercury sulfide. One business place reported that it had stored both mercury and mercury sulfide. There was no report on the storage of other types of mercury compounds (mercury (I) chloride, mercury (II) oxide, mercury (II) sulphate, mercury (II) nitrate and mercury (II) nitrate hydrate).
- It was confirmed that measures for the environmentally sound storage of mercury and mercury compounds had been taken.

(iii) FY2022 Reports

The summary of the FY2022 reports, which is the sixth report since the enforcement of the Mercury Pollution Prevention Act, is as follows. The reporting period is from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

- Reports on the storage of mercury or mercury compounds were submitted by 62 business places nationwide. The total amount of mercury or mercury compounds stored, was reported to be 118,670 kg.
- By type, 57 reports were on mercury, and six were on mercury sulfide. One business place reported that it had stored both mercury and mercury sulfide. There was no report on the storage of other types of mercury compounds (mercury (I) chloride, mercury (II) oxide, mercury (II) sulphate, mercury (II) nitrate and mercury (II) nitrate hydrate).
- It was confirmed that measures for the environmentally sound storage of mercury and mercury compounds had been taken.

(iv) FY2023 Reports

The summary of the FY2023 reports, which is the seventh report since the enforcement of the Mercury Pollution Prevention Act, is as follows. The reporting period is from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

- Reports on the storage of mercury or mercury compounds were submitted by 57 business places nationwide. The total amount of mercury or mercury compounds stored, was reported to be 139,625

kg.

- By type, 52 reports were on mercury, and six were on mercury sulfide. One business place reported that it had stored both mercury and mercury sulfide. There was no report on the storage of other types of mercury compounds (mercury (I) chloride, mercury (II) oxide, mercury (II) sulphate, mercury (II) nitrate and mercury (II) nitrate hydrate).
- It was confirmed that measures for the environmentally sound storage of mercury and mercury compounds had been taken.