Canada- Submission pursuant to Decision MC-6/2 and in support of the evaluation under Article 3(13) – Mercury Compounds

I. Information

- Date of submission: March 30, 2026
- National focal point: Alison Dickson
- Ref: Minamata Secretariat's letter MC/COP6/2026/12,
  UNEP/MC/COP.6/5/Add.1
  UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/5

II. Introduction

In response to this request as described in the Minamata Secretariat's letter of February 14, 2026, the present submission provides:
(i) available national information on the supply, trade and use of mercury compounds;
(ii) the Party's views and input regarding mercury compounds that could be considered for listing in a possible annex pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 13

This submission is based on information available to Canada at the time of preparation and is provided to support the technical assessment process and facilitate informed consideration by the open-ended expert group and the Conference of the Parties of mercury compounds under Article 3.

As noted in the footnote to decision MC-6/2, this work is intended to study mercury compounds that may be used in products or processes, or that can be converted to elemental mercury. It is not intended to cover mercury compounds that fall under the definition of mercury waste in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 11.

III. Available Information on the Supply, Trade and Use of Mercury Compounds

1. Supply

Domestic supply of mercury compounds in Canada is limited due to the regulatory framework that restricts the use of mercury in products and industrial processes. Under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*, the *Products Containing Mercury Regulations* prohibit the manufacture and import of most products containing mercury, which includes mercury compounds, with only a limited number of exemptions for specific applications where technically or economically feasible alternatives are not yet available. These measures, implemented in alignment with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, have significantly reduced allowable uses and established timelines for the phase-out of remaining applications. As a result, any domestic supply of mercury compounds is expected to be minimal and largely limited to small quantities used for laboratory, analytical, or scientific research purposes.

Mercury compounds may be unintentionally generated as by-products of certain industrial processes. Activities such as metal smelting, refining, or combustion can result in trace quantities of mercury compounds when mercury naturally present in raw materials is released or chemically transformed during processing. In Canada, these occurrences are not considered intentional production; rather, they are managed as residues or waste streams, consistent with the approach reflected in the Convention.

Authorized facilities in Canada are also responsible for the recovery of mercury from end-of-life products and other waste materials. These facilities operate under provincial and territorial jurisdiction and must comply with applicable federal and provincial environmental regulations. Although precise quantities of recovered mercury are not publicly available, the relatively low volumes of mercury-containing products imported and manufactured in Canada suggest that recovery operations generate only limited quantities of mercury and mercury compounds.

Given the absence of primary mercury mining and the very limited domestic generation of mercury compounds, the supply of mercury compounds in Canada is largely derived from imports. Consequently, international trade data, particularly customs records from the Canada Border Services Agency, provides an important indicator of the supply and movement of mercury compounds within Canada.

2. Trade Data

To support the assessment of mercury compounds potentially entering or leaving Canada and used for international trade, trade data from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) was reviewed, recognizing that these data are collected primarily for trade and tariff administration rather than for the identification of specific chemical compounds. Import data were available for the period 2018–2025, while export data covered the period 2020–2025.

While Canada also maintains international trade data through Statistics Canada, including the Canadian International Merchandise Trade database, these data are presented at a more aggregated level. As a result, they do not provide the same level of specificity as data obtained directly from the Canada Border Services Agency and were therefore not used for this data compilation.

3. Review

The review focused on records associated with relevant Harmonized System (HS) codes that may include mercury compounds or products containing mercury compounds. In particular, HS code 28.52 was examined, which covers inorganic or organic compounds of mercury, whether or not chemically defined, excluding amalgams. Within this category, two subcodes were considered: 2852.10.00, which refers to chemically defined mercury compounds, and 2852.90.00, which includes other mercury compounds that do not fall under the chemically defined classification.

Some limitations were found while using CBSA trade data for this purpose. The source of certain imports could not be determined because some CBSA trade records did not include a country of origin. In addition, it was not always possible to clearly identify the specific mercury compound associated with some entries, as product descriptions linked to certain HS codes are not sufficiently detailed. Because HS codes may cover broad categories of substances, some records may also be classified in a way that does not clearly indicate the presence or type of mercury compound.

Direct comparison of reported quantities was also limited because trade volumes for almost 15% of the items listed are reported using different units (e.g., kilograms, number of items, or other

units). To enable these records to be included in the data compilation, quantities not reported in kilograms were normalized by assigning a value of 0.1 kg. The value 0.1 kg was selected as a conservative estimate to represent small laboratory-scale shipments, such as reagents or analytical standards, which are typically supplied in quantities of a few grams to several tens of grams which is consistent with the expected use of the shipments.

4. Imports

4.1. Substances

Several mercury compounds and mercury containing categories were identified in the trade data. These include:

- Mercury compounds (general)
- Mercury(I) nitrate
- Mercury(II) acetate
- Mercury(II) bromide
- Mercury(II) chloride
- Mercury(II) iodide
- Mercury(II) nitrate
- Mercury(II) oxide
- Mercury(II) perchlorate
- Mercury(II) sulfate
- Mercury(II) sulfide
- Mercury(II) thiocyanate
- Organomercury compounds

The identified substances can be grouped according to their chemical composition. This includes both well-defined inorganic mercury compounds and broader categories such as unspecified mercury compounds, and organomercury compounds.

Most of the listed substances, such as mercury(I) and mercury(II) chlorides, nitrates, oxides, sulfates, and related salts, are chemically defined inorganic compounds in which mercury is present in a specific oxidation state. In contrast, categories such as mercury compounds (general) and organomercury compounds represent broader groupings rather than single, well-defined substances.

Mercury compounds (general) refer to entries that lack sufficient detail to identify the specific chemical form of mercury present.

Organomercury compounds are those in which mercury is chemically bonded to carbon containing groups such as methyl, ethyl, or phenyl. Product descriptions in the dataset included substances such as methylmercury chloride, ethylmercuric chloride, phenylmercury acetate, p aminophenylmercuric acetate, and thimerosal.

In addition to the substances listed above, other records were identified that relate to products or mercury waste based on the available information. These entries are likely misclassified and may not represent distinct mercury compounds.

For example, the products identified include a wide range of general chemical and commercial product types, such as sanitizers and cleaning agents, water and environmental treatment products, electroplating and surface treatment chemicals, polymer additives and curing agents, catalysts, laboratory reagents and analytical materials, chemical intermediates and raw materials, as well as maintenance and consumer products. Based on the available descriptions, these items appear to reflect general industrial, laboratory, or consumer chemical products rather than clearly defined mercury compounds. There is no clear indication from the product descriptions that these products contain mercury and so these entries were removed from the dataset.

Mercury(I) chloride was also identified within these entries; however, the reported quantity and destination suggest that it is more likely misclassified mercury waste rather than a discrete commercial chemical product. As waste is specifically excluded from the mercury compounds work, the relevant entries were removed and are not considered further in this data compilation.

4.2. Activities

To better understand the potential uses of mercury compounds entering Canada, the identified substances were analyzed based on the industrial activities of the companies associated with the corresponding trade records. The entries were directly assigned to NAICS codes based on the primary activities of the reporting companies, providing a standardized framework for categorizing economic activities.

The records are primarily associated with manufacturing activities, including basic organic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, miscellaneous chemical products, and medical and precision equipment manufacturing. Additional entries were linked to wholesale trade activities, specifically chemical and allied product distribution. Smaller numbers of records were associated with professional, scientific and technical activities, including testing laboratories and biotechnology research, as well as limited healthcare activities.

Table 1. Industries and NAICS codes associated with records involving imports of mercury compounds identified in CBSA trade data.

Activities	NAICS
Basic organic chemical manufacturing	325190
Pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing	325410
All other miscellaneous chemical product manufacturing	325998
Navigational, measuring, medical and control instruments manufacturing	334516
Dental equipment and supplies manufacturing	339114
Chemical and allied products merchant wholesalers	414450
Testing laboratories	541380
Research and development in biotechnology (except nanobiotechnology)	541714
Offices of all other health practitioners	621399

The amount in kilograms discussed below represents the total amounts imported over the entire review period (2018-2025) and are not annual totals.

Mercury(I) nitrate was reported in a total quantity of 26.19 kg, with the majority associated with manufacturing of navigational, measuring, medical, and control instruments (NAICS: 334516) (21.09 kg) and smaller quantities linked to chemical and allied product merchant wholesalers (NAICS: 414450) (5.10 kg). This distribution suggests use in specialized industrial applications such as instrumentation or supply through specialty chemical distributors.

Mercury(II) acetate was reported in a total quantity of 12.20 kg, associated primarily with chemical wholesalers (NAICS: 414450) (4.20 kg), miscellaneous chemical product manufacturing (NAICS: 325998) (5.00 kg), and research and development in biotechnology (NAICS: 541714) (3.00 kg). These quantities are consistent with laboratory scale applications or specialty chemical supply.

Mercury(II) bromide was reported in a total quantity of 7.00 kg, mainly associated with miscellaneous chemical product manufacturing (NAICS: 325998) (3.00 kg) and chemical wholesalers (NAICS: 414450) (4.00 kg), suggesting limited use in laboratory reagents or specialty chemical applications.

Mercury(II) chloride was reported in a total quantity of 28.80 kg, with the majority associated with research and development in biotechnology (NAICS: 541714) (17.00 kg). Smaller quantities were linked to miscellaneous chemical product manufacturing (NAICS: 325998) (2.00 kg), chemical wholesalers (NAICS: 414450) (8.70 kg), pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing (NAICS: 325410) (1.00 kg), and instrument manufacturing (NAICS: 334516) (0.10 kg). This distribution indicates research, analytical, and specialty chemical uses.

Mercury(II) iodide was reported in a total quantity of 9.50 kg, primarily associated with research and development in biotechnology (NAICS: 541714) (5.40 kg) and miscellaneous chemical product manufacturing (NAICS: 325998) (4.00 kg), with a small quantity linked to chemical wholesalers (NAICS: 414450) (0.10 kg). These quantities are consistent with research, analytical, or specialized laboratory applications.

Mercury(II) nitrate was reported in a total quantity of 29.70 kg, most of which was associated with chemical and allied product merchant wholesalers (NAICS: 414450) (24.30 kg), indicating that the compound is primarily handled through chemical distribution channels. Smaller quantities were associated with research and development in biotechnology (NAICS: 541714) (4.00 kg) and miscellaneous chemical product manufacturing (NAICS: 325998) (1.40 kg).

Mercury(II) oxide was reported in a total quantity of 6.84 kg, with the largest share linked to pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing (NAICS: 325410) (4.00 kg). Additional smaller quantities were associated with research and development in biotechnology (NAICS: 541714) (1.60 kg), chemical wholesalers (NAICS: 414450) (1.04 kg), and miscellaneous chemical product manufacturing (NAICS: 325998) (0.20 kg), suggesting laboratory or pharmaceutical applications.

Mercury(II) perchlorate was reported in a very small quantity of 0.12 kg, associated only with chemical and allied product merchant wholesalers (NAICS: 414450), indicating distribution as a specialized laboratory reagent or analytical standard.

Mercury(II) sulfate was reported in a total quantity of 8.46 kg, primarily associated with miscellaneous chemical product manufacturing (NAICS: 325998) (5.4 kg) and basic organic chemical manufacturing (NAICS: 325190) (2.00 kg). Smaller quantities were linked to research and

development in biotechnology (NAICS: 541714) (0.80 kg) and chemical wholesalers (NAICS: 414450) (0.26 kg).

Mercury(II) sulfide was reported in a total quantity of 4.2 kg, mainly associated with offices of other health practitioners (NAICS: 621399) (4.00 kg), with a small quantity linked to miscellaneous chemical product manufacturing (NAICS: 325998) (0.20 kg).

Mercury(II) thiocyanate was reported in a total quantity of 9.46 kg, with the largest quantities associated with pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing (NAICS: 325410) (4.16 kg) and chemical wholesalers (NAICS: 414450) (2.70 kg). Smaller quantities were associated with instrument manufacturing (NAICS: 334516) (2.00 kg) and research and development in biotechnology (NAICS: 541714) (0.60 kg).

General mercury compounds accounted for 1,126.88 kg, with the majority associated with research and development in biotechnology (NAICS: 541714) (1,006.78 kg). Smaller quantities were linked to miscellaneous chemical product manufacturing (NAICS: 325998) (116.00 kg), pharmaceutical manufacturing (NAICS: 325410) (1.50 kg), dental equipment manufacturing (NAICS: 339114) (2.20 kg) and chemical wholesalers (NAICS:414450) (0.40 kg). Because these entries were recorded without further chemical specification, the exact identity of the mercury compounds involved could not be determined.

Organomercury compounds were reported in a total quantity of 24.74 kg, primarily associated with research and development in biotechnology (NAICS: 541714) (9.40 kg) and testing laboratories (NAICS: 541380) (5.00 kg). Smaller quantities were linked to pharmaceutical manufacturing (NAICS: 325410) (4.20 kg), miscellaneous chemical product manufacturing (NAICS: 325998) (4.14 kg), and chemical wholesalers (NAICS: 414450) (2.00 kg). The relatively small volumes and their association with research and analytical activities suggest that these substances are most likely used as laboratory reagents, analytical standards, or specialized research materials.

Table 2. Mercury compounds and NAICS codes associated with records involving imports of mercury compounds (in kilograms) identified in CBSA trade data.

Substance	NAICS									
	325190	325410	325998	334516	339114	414450	541380	541714	621399	Grand Total (kg)
Mercury compounds (general)		1.50	116.00		2.2	0.40		1006.78		1126.88
Mercury(I) nitrate compound				21.09		5.10				26.19
Mercury(II) acetate compound			5.00			4.20		3.00		12.20
Mercury(II) bromide compound			3.00			4.00				7.00
Mercury(II) chloride compound		1.00	2.00	0.10		8.70		17.00		28.80
Mercury(II) iodide compound			4.00			0.10		5.40		9.50
Mercury(II) nitrate compound			1.40			24.30		4.00		29.70
Mercury(II) oxide compound		4.00	0.20			1.04		1.60		6.84
Mercury(II) perchlorate compound						0.12				0.12
Mercury(II) sulfate compound	2.00		5.40			0.26		0.80		8.46
Mercury(II) sulfide compound			0.20						4.00	4.20
Mercury(II) thiocyanate compound		4.16		2.00		2.70		0.60		9.46
Organomercury compound		4.20	4.14			2.00	5.0	9.4		24.74
Grand Total (kg)	**2.00**	**14.86**	**141.34**	**23.19**	**2.20**	**52.92**	**5.00**	**1048.58**	**4.00**	**1294.09**

In summary:

- Quantities of most mercury compounds are small and linked to specialized uses rather than large scale industrial production
- Primary sectors include biotechnology research (NAICS 541714), chemical wholesalers (NAICS 414450), and miscellaneous chemical manufacturing (NAICS 325998)
- Uses are consistent with laboratory reagents, analytical standards, and specialty chemical applications

- Some compounds are associated with instrument manufacturing and pharmaceutical or health related activities, indicating niche applications
- A large portion of mercury was reported as unspecified compounds (1126.88 kg), mostly in research, limiting detailed interpretation of use
- Overall pattern suggests controlled, small-scale use in research, analytical, and specialty industrial contexts

4.3. Trends in Mercury Compound Imports Over Time

To better understand temporal patterns in the import of mercury compounds into Canada, the reported quantities were examined across the period 2018–2025.

The annual shipment data (Table 3) show that the number of shipments of mercury compounds into Canada increased from 2018 to a peak in 2020 (256 shipments), followed by a gradual decline through 2021 and 2022. A sharp drop is observed in 2023 (16 shipments), with partial recovery in 2024 and 2025 (69 shipments each year). Overall, shipment activity is highest in the 2018 to 2022 period, with a clear reduction in more recent years.

Table 3. Annual shipments of mercury compounds imported into Canada by substance, 2018–2025.

Substances	Number of shipments per year								
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
Mercury compounds (general)	136	146	228	192	161	10	53	35	961
Mercury(I) nitrate compound	2	2		2	4				10
Mercury(II) acetate compound	4	2	2	2				2	12
Mercury(II) bromide compound					4			2	6
Mercury(II) chloride compound	12	10	4	20	8	1	6	7	68
Mercury(II) iodide compound	10	2				1		3	16
Mercury(II) nitrate compound	2	12	6	6	18	1	4	5	54
Mercury(II) oxide compound	2	8	6		2			5	23
Mercury(II) perchlorate compound	4								4
Mercury(II) sulfate compound	2	10				2	5	4	23
Mercury(II) sulfide compound	2	4							6
Mercury(II) thiocyanate compound	6	6		4	2	1		2	21
Organomercury compound	22	14	10	12	4		1	4	67
Grand Total (# of shipments)	**204**	**216**	**256**	**238**	**203**	**16**	**69**	**69**	**1271**

The annual quantities reported in kilograms (Table 4) follow a similar overall pattern. Total quantities increase from 2018 to a peak in 2022 (304.40 kg), then decline significantly in 2023

(12.80 kg), with modest increases in 2024 and 2025. This trend is primarily driven by mercury compounds reported as general, which dominate total quantities throughout the period.

Table 4. Annual quantities of mercury compounds imported into Canada by substance (kg), 2018–2025.

Substances	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total (kg)
Mercury compounds (general)	83.64	126.26	263.80	236.48	287.00	10.00	71.70	48.00	1126.88
Mercury(I) nitrate compound	1.00	21.09		0.10	4.00				26.19
Mercury(II) acetate compound	3.60	2.00	1.40	0.20				5.00	12.20
Mercury(II) bromide compound					4.00			3.00	7.00
Mercury(II) chloride compound	16.00	2.20	2.50	4.40	1.00	0.10	0.60	2.00	28.80
Mercury(II) iodide compound	4.20	1.20				0.10		4.00	9.50
Mercury(II) nitrate compound	0.20	5.20	3.90	8.00	5.80	2.30	1.70	2.60	29.70
Mercury(II) oxide compound	0.80	4.24	1.00		0.20			0.60	6.84
Mercury(II) perchlorate compound	0.12								0.12
Mercury(II) sulfate compound	0.06	3.00				0.20	0.60	4.60	8.46
Mercury(II) sulfide compound	0.20	4.00							4.20
Mercury(II) thiocyanate compound	4.36	0.60		2.20	2.00	0.10		0.20	9.46
Organomercury compound	4.80	9.14	5.00	1.20	0.40		0.20	4.00	24.74
Grand Total (kg)	**118.98**	**178.93**	**277.60**	**252.58**	**304.40**	**12.80**	**74.80**	**74.00**	**1294.09**

4.4. Trade Direction of Mercury Compound Imports

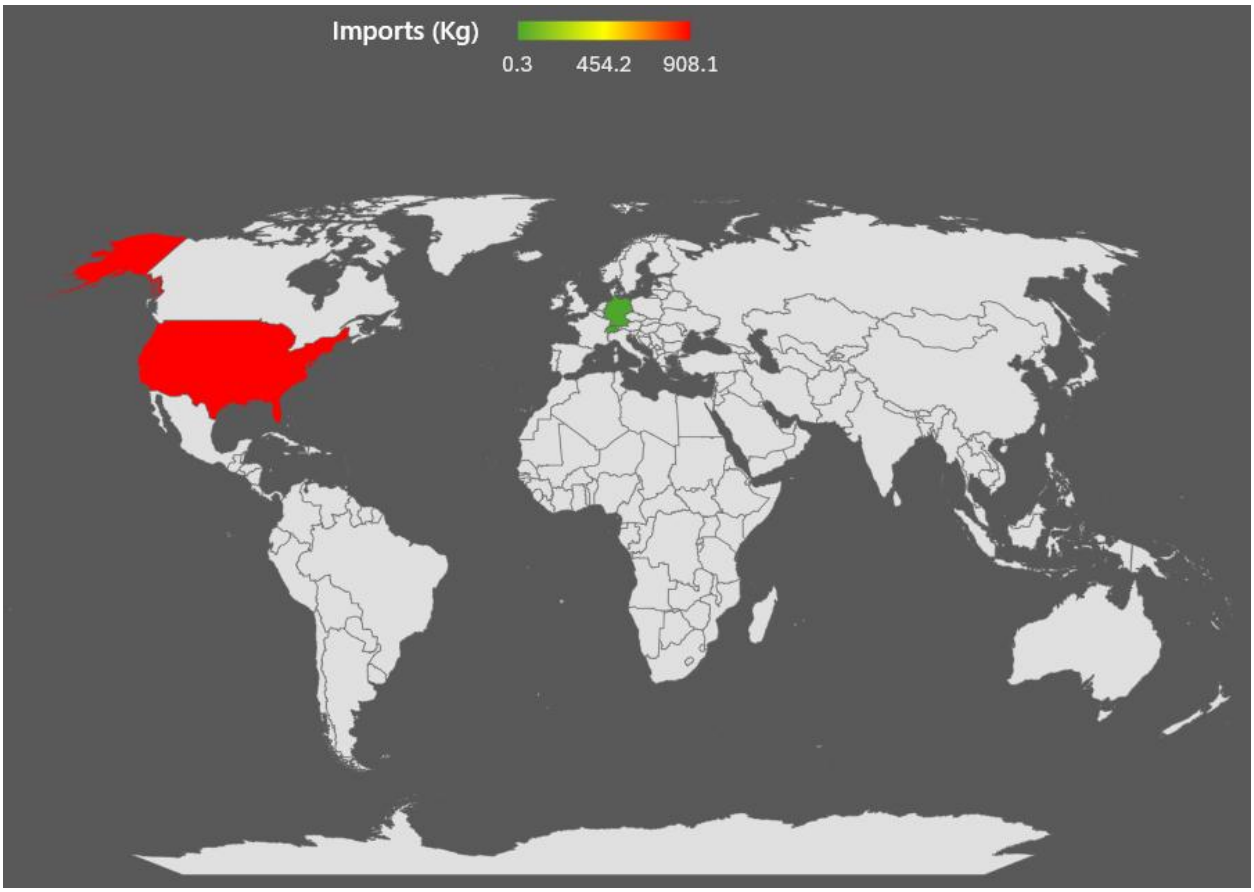
To identify potential sources of mercury compounds entering Canada, the reported quantities were examined by country of origin. Table 5 presents the total quantities of mercury compounds imported from each reporting country based on CBSA trade records.

Table 5. Reported quantities of mercury compounds imported into Canada by country of origin 2018-2025 (kg).

Substance	Switzerland	Germany	United States	Country of Origin Not Specified	Grand Total (kg)
Mercury compounds (general)			815.16	311.72	1126.88
Mercury(I) nitrate compound			4.00	22.19	26.19
Mercury(II) acetate compound			8.20	4.00	12.20
Mercury(II) bromide compound			7.00		7.00
Mercury(II) chloride compound			25.00	3.80	28.80
Mercury(II) iodide compound			9.50		9.50
Mercury(II) nitrate compound			19.80	9.90	29.70
Mercury(II) oxide compound			2.20	4.64	6.84
Mercury(II) perchlorate compound				0.12	0.12
Mercury(II) sulfate compound	0.30	0.40	5.00	2.76	8.46
Mercury(II) sulfide compound				4.20	4.20
Mercury(II) thiocyanate compound			2.90	6.56	9.46
Organomercury compound		1.20	9.34	14.20	24.74
Grand Total (kg)	**0.30**	**1.60**	**908.10**	**384.09**	**1294.09**

According to the data, the United States is the primary identified source of mercury compound imports into Canada, accounting for the majority of reported quantities across both unspecified and chemically defined mercury compounds. Key contributions include large volumes of unspecified mercury compounds as well as notable quantities of mercury(II) nitrate, mercury(II) chloride, mercury(I) nitrate, and other specialty mercury substances.

Figure 1. Reported quantities of mercury compounds imported into Canada by country of origin 2018-2025 (kg).



Only very small quantities were attributed to other identified countries, with Germany accounting for a minor share and Switzerland contributing negligible amounts.

A substantial portion of the reported quantities, totaling 384 kg, did not include information on the country of origin. This continues to reflect limitations in the available trade data and restricts the ability to fully characterize international sourcing patterns for these substances.

5. Exports

5.1. Substances

Based on the review of records associated with HS code 28.52 and its relevant subcategories, several mercury compounds and mercury-containing categories were identified in the export trade data. These included:

- Mercury (II) chloride compound
- Mercury (II) oxide compound
- Mercury (II) cyanide compound
- Mercury (II) thiocyanate compound
- Organomercury compounds

The substances identified in the export data can be grouped based on their chemical structure and level of specificity, including well-defined inorganic mercury compounds and organomercury compounds representing broader families of related substances. The inorganic mercury compounds identified (e.g., mercury (II) chloride, mercury (II) oxide, mercury (II) cyanide, and mercury (II) thiocyanate) represent chemically defined substances.

Organomercury compounds represent a broader grouping of substances rather than single, chemically defined compounds. This category includes several related compound families identified in the dataset, such as ethylmercury compounds, phenylmercury compounds and derivatives, aminophenylmercury compounds, thimerosal compounds, mersalyl compounds, and chloromercuri aromatic sulfonates. These groups are described in further detail below.

5.2. Activities

Exporting companies are assigned primarily to Other Chemical Product Manufacturing (NAICS 325999) based on their main reported business activity. Although some companies may also conduct activities associated with Basic Inorganic Chemical Manufacturing (NAICS 325180), Basic Organic Chemical Manufacturing (NAICS 325199), or Pharmaceutical Preparation Manufacturing (NAICS 325412), trade data do not allow these functions to be separated reliably. As a result, exports are linked here to the companies' principal industrial classification.

On that basis, reported exports are concentrated within Other Chemical Product Manufacturing (NAICS 325999). Within this sector, organomercury compounds account for the majority of reported quantities (263.24 kg), substantially exceeding inorganic mercury compounds. Among the inorganic substances, mercury(II) chloride is the most prominent (12.00 kg), followed by mercury(II) oxide (3.00 kg), mercury(II) cyanide (2.00 kg), and mercury(II) thiocyanate (1.00 kg). Overall, the total reported quantity (281.24 kg) is dominated by organomercury compounds, indicating that most export activity captured in the trade data relates to these substances.

Again, the amount in kilograms discussed above represents the total amounts exported over the entire review period (for export data this includes 2020-2025) and are not annual totals.

Table 6. Reported quantities of exported mercury compounds (in kilograms) per activity from 2020-2025

Substance	Other Chemical Product Manufacturing
Mercury(II) chloride compound	12.00
Mercury(II) cyanide compound	2.00
Mercury(II) oxide compound	3.00
Mercury(II) thiocyanate compound	1.00
Organomercury compound	263.24
Grand Total (kg)	**281.24**

5.3. Trends in Mercury Compound Exports Over Time

The data compilation of export data from 2020 to 2025 indicates that mercury compound exports are dominated by organomercury compounds in both shipment frequency and reported quantities. Across the reporting period, organomercury compounds accounted for most shipments (172 out of 190 total shipments) and quantities (263.24 out of 281.24 total units).

In terms of shipment counts, exports increased overall from 19 shipments in 2020 to 44 shipments in 2025, with some variability between years. Organomercury compounds consistently represented the largest share of shipments annually, with a noticeable increase in 2023 (40 shipments) followed by relatively stable levels in 2024 (n=37) and 2025 (n=38). In contrast, inorganic mercury compounds were exported infrequently, with only a small number of shipments recorded for mercury (II) chloride, oxide, cyanide, and thiocyanate, typically appearing sporadically across the years.

Table 7. Annual number of shipments of mercury compounds exported from Canada by substance, 2020–2025

Substance	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total (#)
Mercury(II) chloride compound		1	2		3	6	12
Mercury(II) cyanide compound					2		2
Mercury(II) oxide compound		1	1	1			3
Mercury(II) thiocyanate compound	1						1
Organomercury compound	18	27	12	40	37	38	172
Grand Total (# of shipments)	**19**	**29**	**15**	**41**	**42**	**44**	**190**

A similar pattern is observed for export quantities. Total reported quantities increased from 21 in 2020 to 83.3 in 2025, with the most significant increases occurring after 2022. Organomercury compounds showed a marked rise in 2023 (64.5 kg), remaining elevated in 2024 (61.44 kg) and increasing further in 2025 (77.3 kg). Inorganic mercury compounds contributed minimally to total quantities, with mercury (II) chloride representing the largest share among them (12 kg total), while other compounds were present only in very small amounts.

Table 8. Annual quantities of mercury compounds exported from Canada by substance (kg), 2020–2025.

Substance	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total (kg)
Mercury(II) chloride compound		1.00	2.00		3.00	6.00	12.00
Mercury(II) cyanide compound					2.00		2.00
Mercury(II) oxide compound		1.00	1.00	1.00			3.00
Mercury(II) thiocyanate compound	1.00						1.00
Organomercury compound	20.00	28.00	12.00	64.50	61.44	77.30	263.24
Grand Total (kg)	**21.00**	**30.00**	**15.00**	**65.50**	**66.44**	**83.30**	**281.24**

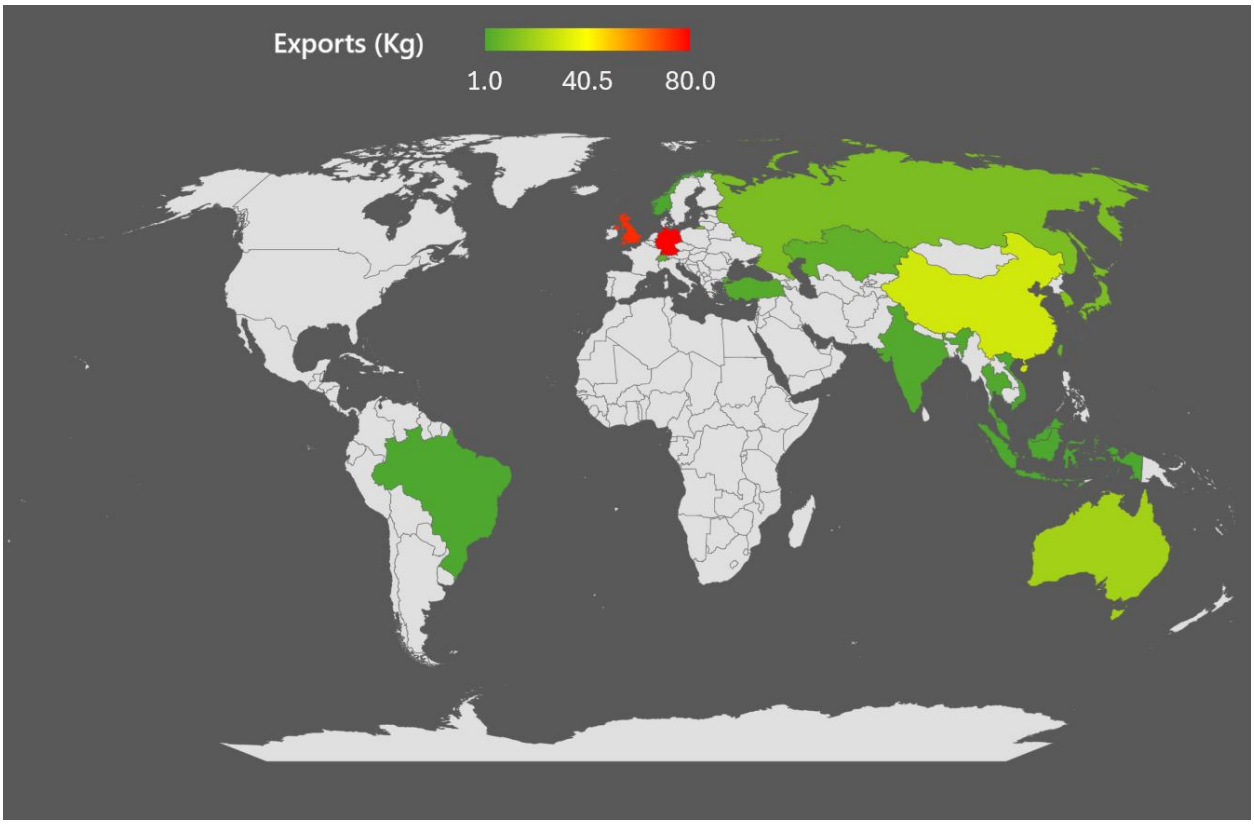
5.4. Trade Direction of Mercury Compound Exports

The distribution of mercury compound exports by country of destination indicates that exports are largely composed of organomercury compounds, which account for most of the total reported quantity (263.24 kg out of 281.24 kg). The United Kingdom represents the largest destination (73.18 kg), followed by Germany (80.00 kg total, including both organomercury and smaller quantities of inorganic compounds), China (30.00 kg), and Australia (20.00 kg). Additional destinations include Hong Kong, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation, each receiving moderate quantities primarily in the form of organomercury compounds. In contrast, inorganic mercury compounds such as mercury(II) chloride, cyanide, oxide, and thiocyanate are exported in very small quantities and to a limited number of countries, with Germany accounting for most of these shipments. Overall, the data indicate that export activity is broadly distributed across multiple international markets but is strongly dominated by organomercury compounds.

Table 9. Reported quantities of mercury compounds (in kilograms) exported from Canada by country of destination 2020-2025

Country of Destination	Mercury(II) chloride compound	Mercury(II) cyanide compound	Mercury(II) oxide compound	Mercury(II) thiocyanate compound	Organomercury compound	Grand Total(kg)
Australia					20.00	20.00
Brazil			1.00			1.00
N/A					1.00	1.00
China				1.00	29.00	30.00
Germany	10.00	2.00	1.00		67.00	80.00
Hong Kong	1.00				12.00	13.00
India					2.06	2.06
Indonesia					1.00	1.00
Japan					11.00	11.00
Kazakhstan					5.00	5.00
Korea, Republic of					13.00	13.00
Malaysia					1.00	1.00
Norway			1.00			1.00
Russian Federation					11.00	11.00
Switzerland					5.00	5.00
Taiwan					7.00	7.00
Thailand					2.00	2.00
Turkey	1.00				2.00	3.00
United Kingdom					73.18	73.18
Viet Nam					1.00	1.00
Grand Total (Kg)	**12.00**	**2.00**	**3.00**	**1.00**	**263.24**	**281.24**

Figure 2. Reported quantities of mercury compounds (in kilograms) exported from Canada by country of destination 2020-2025



6. Overview of Mercury Compound Trade in Canada

Several mercury compounds that are consistent with the compounds of interest included in the **"Study of the global supply, production, trade and use of mercury compounds"** (UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/5) were identified within Canadian trade data, including mercury(II) acetate, mercury(II) chloride, mercury(II) iodide, mercury(II) nitrate, mercury(II) oxide, mercury(II) sulfate, and mercury(II) sulfide.

At the same time, the dataset also includes additional substances that were not highlighted in the study, such as mercury(I) nitrate, mercury(II) bromide, mercury(II) perchlorate, mercury(II) thiocyanate, mercury(II) cyanide, as well as broader categories including organomercury compounds and unspecified mercury compounds.

Canada imports significantly more mercury compounds than it exports. However, although these substances were identified in Canadian trade data, their reported quantities and associated uses remain consistent with permitted applications under the Convention, primarily in laboratory, analytical, research, and limited pharmaceutical contexts.

Table 10. Reported net trade balance of mercury compounds in Canada (kg)

Substance	Imports	Exports	Net
Mercury compounds (general)	1126.88		1126.88
Mercury(I) nitrate compound	26.19		26.19
Mercury(II) acetate compound	12.20		12.20
Mercury(II) bromide compound	7.00		7.00
Mercury(II) chloride compound	28.80	12.00	16.80
Mercury(II) iodide compound	9.50		9.50
Mercury(II) nitrate compound	29.70		29.70
Mercury(II) oxide compound	6.84	3.00	3.84
Mercury(II) perchlorate compound	0.12		0.12
Mercury(II) sulfate compound	8.46		8.46
Mercury(II) sulfide compound	4.20		4.20
Mercury(II) thiocyanate compound	9.46		9.46
Organomercury compound	24.74	263.24	-238.50
Mercury(II) cyanide compound		2.00	-2.00
Mercury(II) thiocyanate compound		1.00	-1.00
Grand Total (Kg)	**1294.09**	**281.24**	**1012.85**

IV. Party's views regarding mercury compounds that could be considered for listing in a possible annex pursuant to Articles 3, paragraph 13

The **"Study of the global supply, production, trade and use of mercury compounds"** identifies several factors that may be relevant when considering whether mercury compounds should be included in a potential annex, as well as identifying compounds of interest. These factors include the ease of conversion to elemental mercury, trade volume and frequency, use in applications of concern, and availability and production pathways. Canada considers that this framework is, in principle, appropriate for identifying compounds that may warrant further consideration for inclusion in an annex.

Canadian data has identified trade data linked to several of the compounds included in the report, However, the quantities and associated uses observed are consistent with permitted applications and do not indicate trade volumes that would suggest these compounds currently present an issue at the national level.

While it would be premature, based on available national data alone, to propose specific mercury compounds for inclusion in an annex, Canada considers that the framework identified in the study, combined with more detailed and comprehensive data from Parties collected for this tasking, will support the identification of compounds that may warrant further consideration. As an initial step, Canada would particularly urge the open-ended expert group to consider, among the key issues

highlighted in the report, mercury compounds that are used in cosmetics, as these products are currently banned under the Convention, and mercury compounds that may be converted to elemental mercury for use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, given the significant global impacts of this activity.

Canada looks forward to further discussions on this topic and will be nominating a participant for the expert group.