The State of Kuwait

Call for Information on Supply Sources and Trade

September 2026

The State of Kuwait is pleased to provide the following information on its experience in controlling the supply and trade of mercury in line with the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

1. Legal and Institutional Framework

Kuwait implements provisions of Article 3 of the Minamata Convention through national environmental legislation, customs procedures, and cooperation among the national authorities. The Environment Public Authority (EPA) works closely with Kuwait's General Administration of Customs and other authorities to control and monitor the import and export of mercury. The import of mercury is prohibited under the applicable national measures, with appropriate provisions for specific legitimate purposes, such as scientific research.

Kuwait has no primary mercury mining or mercury extraction activities. Kuwait also has no gold mining activities including artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM).

2. Procedures for Controlling Mercury Imports

The State of Kuwait has established procedures for controlling shipments that may contain mercury. The Environment Public Authority (EPA) and the General Administration of Customs cooperate in reviewing such shipments and determining whether they meet the applicable national requirements.

The procedures include reviewing the documentation, verifying the nature and intended use of the material, and confirming that the necessary approvals have been obtained from the authorities before a shipment is authorized to enter the country. Electronic customs systems also support the identification and control of prohibited or restricted substances. If a shipment does not meet the applicable requirements, authorities will refuse its entry into Kuwait.

3. Control of Mercury Imports

The State of Kuwait has procedures to control shipments that may contain mercury. The Environmental Public Authority of Kuwait works with the General Administration of Customs and other authorities to review such shipments and check their compliance with national requirements.

The procedures include checking documents, verifying the type and intended use of the material, and confirming the required approvals before a shipment is allowed to enter Kuwait. Electronic customs systems also support the identification and control of prohibited or restricted substances. If a shipment does not meet the applicable requirements, authorities will refuse its entry into Kuwait.

4. Experience in Controlling Mercury Trade

In October 2021, a shipment containing mercury was identified upon arrival in the State of Kuwait. The General Administration of Customs coordinated with the Public Environment Authority regarding the shipment and its compliance with the national requirements. Following the assessment, the shipment was not permitted to enter the State of Kuwait and was subsequently returned to its country of origin.

This case highlights the successful coordination between Kuwaiti Customs and the Public Environment Authority in implementing national controls on chemical imports. Through effective cooperation and enforcement measures, the authorities were able to identify and prevent the entry of shipments that did not meet the applicable regulatory requirements.

5. Mercury Stocks

Kuwait has no gold mines and does not carry out gold mining activities including artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM). Furthermore, there are currently no industrial facilities in the country known to maintain stocks of mercury for industrial or other purposes.

6. Progress in Reducing Mercury Use

Kuwait has taken steps to reduce the use of mercury and mercury-containing products and to improve their safe management.

These efforts include:

- Phasing out mercury-containing thermometers and sphygmomanometers in hospitals and replacing them with digital alternatives.
- Phasing out the use of mercury-containing dental amalgam.
- Developing a national plan to phase out the import and manufacture of mercury-containing fluorescent lamps and batteries.
- Improving the safe management and disposal of mercury-containing waste.
- Strengthening environmental monitoring of mercury in air, water and soil.
- Cooperating with national research institutions on mercury monitoring and research and supporting national reporting under the Minamata Convention.

7. Lessons Learned

Kuwait's experience has shown that:

- Good cooperation between EPA and customs is important for effective implementation of Article 3.
- Electronic customs systems are useful tools for identifying and controlling prohibited or restricted mercury shipments.
- Clear procedures for checking documents and approvals help strengthen border controls.
- Continued training and information exchange between authorities can further improve mercury trade controls.
- The consistent use of Harmonized System (HS) codes can help improve the identification and monitoring of mercury-related trade.

The experience of Kuwait shows the importance of combining environmental regulations, customs controls, electronic systems, cooperation between authorities, and effective enforcement measures.

Kuwait remains committed to controlling mercury imports and trade and to ensuring its safe and proper management.

Kuwait also supports continued cooperation and information exchange among Parties to strengthen the control of mercury supply and trade and to prevent unauthorized transboundary movement of mercury.