



**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Sixth Meeting**

Geneva, 3–7 November 2025

Item 4 (b) (iv) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference
of the Parties: mercury-added products and
manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury
compounds are used: extensions of exemptions**

**Request to extend the exemptions pursuant to paragraph 6 of
article 6: Submission by Bangladesh****

Note by the secretariat

1. As explained in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/6/Add.3, the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the request by Bangladesh to extend exemptions pursuant to paragraph 6 of article 6. The secretariat received by the deadline of 8 September 2025¹ a letter from Bangladesh, which was resubmitted on 15 September 2025 with some technical updates.
2. The updated letter and its attachment are set out in the annex to the present note, without formal editing.

* UNEP/MC/COP.6/1/Rev.1.

** This document has not been formally edited.

¹ This deadline was communicated to parties in view of the requirement in the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to have supporting documents available at least six weeks before the opening of the meeting, and in view of the two weeks needed for processing the documents.

Annex

Submission from Bangladesh: Request for an extension of the exemption for mercury-added products for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

No: 22.00.0000.074.24.007.25.370

Date: 15 September 2025

Ms. Monika Stankiewicz
Executive Secretary
Minamata Convention on Mercury
UNEP, International Environment House
11-13, Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

Subject: Submission of Bangladesh's Request for Extension of Exemptions under Annex A of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Dear Madam,

Greetings from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of Bangladesh.

On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, I, hereby submit a request for extension of exemptions from the phase-out dates for certain mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A of the Convention in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article 6 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Recognizing the need for a gradual transition while ensuring both environmental integrity and public health, Bangladesh ratified this convention with a phase-out period until 2025. Despite our strong commitment and significant efforts, including the submission of a project proposal under the Specific International Programme (SIP), we have been facing technical and financial challenges that hindered our significant progress. The details of our requested exemptions and the justifications are outlined in the accompanying document titled "Registration of Extended Exemptions for the Products and Processes Listed in Part I of Annex A – Bangladesh."

The Government of Bangladesh reaffirms its strong commitment to achieving the objectives of the Minamata Convention and will continue to strive to phase out mercury-added products at the earliest feasible opportunity. I would highly appreciate your kind consideration in this regard.

Please accept, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Farhina Ahmed
Secretary

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.

Bangladesh's Request and Supporting Documents for the Extension of the Exemption Period under Annex A of the Minamata Convention

Annex A: Mercury-added products

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.	Initially requested Exemption Date on becoming a party to this convention or the Phase-out date mentioned in the convention (Year).	Desired Extended Exemption (Year)
Batteries, except for button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%	Import	2025	2030
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	Manufacture, import and export.	2025	2030
Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner	Manufacture, import and export.	2025	2030
Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a	Manufacture, import and export.	2025	2030

mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp; (b) Halophosphate phosphor \leq 40 watts with a mercury content exceeding 10 mg per lamp			
High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMV) for general lighting purposes	Import	2025	2030
Mercury in cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays: (a) short length (\leq 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp (b) medium length ($>$ 500 mm and \leq 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	Manufacture, import and export.	2025	2030
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	Manufacture, import and export.	2025	2030
Pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics	Manufacture, import and export.	2025	2030
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.	Import	2025	2030

THIS NOTIFICATION IS SUBMITTED BY:		
Job Title	Secretary	
Institution/Department	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	
Address	Building-6, Level-14, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka, 1000.	
Telephone: +880255100433	Fax: +8802255101166	E-mail: secretary@moef.gov.bd
Contact name	Dr. Farhina Ahmed	Date: 15 September 2025
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	

Justification of the Exemption:

The People's Republic of Bangladesh reiterates its strong commitment to the goals of the Minamata Convention and to the phase-out of mercury-added products listed in Annex A, Part I. Bangladesh fully acknowledges the environmental, human health, and societal benefits associated with eliminating the use of mercury in these products. The Government is actively working to develop comprehensive strategies that address the environmental, human health, and socio-economic aspects of transitioning to mercury-free alternatives. Preliminary investigation indicates that Bangladesh continues to manufacture, import, and use certain mercury-added products specified in Annex A, Part I. The justification of the request for time extension and other supporting information according to Article 6(6) of the convention are as follows:

Article Number	Status of Bangladesh
Article 6(6)(a)	<p>Upon ratification of the Convention, Bangladesh requested exemptions under Annex A, Part I, until 2025, with the expectation that a timely transition would be possible with adequate technical and financial support. Therefore, Bangladesh submitted a project proposal under the Specific International Programme (SIP) aimed at assessing existing stocks, promoting alternatives, raising awareness, and supporting reporting obligations. Unfortunately, due to intense competition for limited SIP resources, Bangladesh was unable to secure the necessary funding, which has hindered progress toward the original phase-out timeline.</p> <p>In this context, and in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention, Bangladesh hereby requests an extension of the exemption period for the products listed under Annex A, Part I, for an additional five years. This request is made to allow sufficient time for Bangladesh to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mobilize resources and technical assistance for effective phase-out strategies along with base line survey of the manufacturing, Import and Export of Mercury added products; 2. Promote, test, and adopt mercury-free alternatives; 3. Raise awareness among stakeholders, including industries and consumers; and 4. Fulfill reporting obligations and ensure a just and sustainable transition.
Article 6(6)(b)	Bangladesh lacks in market investigation, research and reviewed information on the alternative products and processes due to financial constraints.
Article 6(6)(c)	Since Bangladesh has insufficient data on the stock of Mercury and on supply chain of the end-of-life mercury added products listed in Annex A, eco-friendly storage and disposal of such wastes remains a challenge.

Bangladesh remains fully committed to phasing out mercury-added products as soon as possible, in line with its national circumstances and capabilities. Pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 7, Bangladesh also reserves the right to withdraw this exemption should the phase-out become feasible prior to the expiration of the requested extension period. The Government of Bangladesh respectfully submits this request for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.