

2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 27 January 2026



DISCLAIMER

This is a secretariat version translation of the submitted report by the Party. The text has not been officially translated and edited, and is provided for information purposes. In case of any error or omission in the translation, the original submission prevails.

REPORTING PERIOD:

1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024

UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

Argentina

Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited

September 25, 2017

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

December 24, 2017

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Director of Environmental Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship

Title of Contact Officer

Ms.

Name of Contact Officer

Eliana Ester Saissac

Mailing address

Esmeralda 1212, Floor 14, Office 1408, CABA (CP 1007)

Telephone number

(+5411) 4819-7405

Fax number

{Empty}

E-mail

digma@mrecic.gov.ar

Second E-mail

see@mrecic.gov.ar

Web page

{Empty}

3. Information about the contact officer submitting the reporting format if different from the above

Focal Point is submitting the national report

- ☐ Information is submitted by the national focal point
- ☒ Information is submitted through the national focal point by the contact officer

a3_subsection

Full name of the institution

Undersecretariat of Environment

Title of contact officer

Undersecretary of the Environment

Name of contact officer

Fernando Brom

Mailing address

San Martín 451, C1004AAI, Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Telephone number

(+54) 11 3990 0400 Internal 8298

Fax number

{Empty}

E-mail

privada@ambiente.gob.ar

Second E-mail

chemicalsubstances@environment.gob.ar

Web page

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/jefatura/ambiente>

▼ ART. 3: MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE**3.1: Does the party have any primary mercury mines that were operating within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?**

- ☐ Yes – primary mercury mining with available data
- ☐ Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data
- ☒ No

3.2: Does the party have any primary mercury mines that are now in operation that were not in operation at the time of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes – primary mercury mining with available data
- ☐ Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data
- ☒ No

3.3: (A) Has the party engaged to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons that are located within its territory?

3.3: (A) Has the party engaged to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons that are located within its territory?

- ☒ Yes – with new data* (also to be selected by parties reporting for the first time)
- ☐ Yes – endeavoured and indicates same stocks as reported in the previous report
- ☐ No

ba33a_subsection

Yo. Please attach the results of your endeavor or indicate where it is available on the Internet;
{Empty}

Yo. Please attach the results of your endeavor or indicate where it is available on the Internet;
{Empty}

ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information – for example, on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks.

It is noted that previous reports indicated stocks not intended for use but rather as waste, covered by Article 11.

By virtue of the mercury use exemptions duly registered by Argentina or the uses excepted by the Convention in Annex A, Argentina has regulations for granting exemptions that include monitoring the implementation of the conversion plan during the period of validity of the exemption granted (by administrative act). Likewise, the regulations outline the procedures necessary for obtaining import authorization for mercury or mercury compounds covered by the Convention. Ref: Resolution 299/21 and Resolution 503/22.

Additionally, Resolution 350/23 establishes the technical requirements for mercury storage in accordance with Article 10. This regulation is aligned with the guidance adopted by Decision MC-2/6 on the environmentally sound interim storage of mercury other than residual mercury.

In this context, it is reported that no stocks or inventories of mercury or mercury compounds stored for future use, as defined in Article 3, exceeding 50 tons were identified.

Argentina has two registered exemptions: one for processes under Part I of Annex B (Chlor-alkali production) and another for the manufacture of clinical thermometers.

3.3: (B) Has the party endeavored to identify individual sources of mercury-supply-generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

3.3:(B) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual sources of mercury-supply-generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

- ☒ Yes – with new data* (also to be selected by parties reporting for the first time)
- ☐ Yes – endeavoured and indicates same stocks as reported in the previous report
- ☐ No

ba33b_subsection

Yo. Please attach the results of your endeavor or indicate where it is available on the Internet;
{Empty}

Yo. Please attach the results of your endeavor or indicate where it is available on the Internet;
{Empty}

ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information – for example, on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks.

Mercury occurs naturally in some mining areas (not primary mercury mining); therefore, it is separated and obtained as a byproduct during the mining process. This will be reported in the section on Article 11, as during the reporting period, it was destined for final disposal and not marketed as a product.

3.4: Has the party determined that it has excess mercury available from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No – you have determined it has no excess mercury
- ☐ No – you have not made a determination

3.5: *Has the party received consent, or relied on a general notification of consent, in accordance with article 3, including any required certification from importing non-parties, for all exports of mercury from the party's territory in the reporting period?

- ☐ Yes – exports to parties
- ☐ Yes – exports to non-parties
- ☒ No – no export took place
- ☐ No – consent was not given

3.6: Has the party allowed the import of mercury from a non-party?

- ☒ No

☐ Yes

☐ The importing party has relied on paragraph 7 of article 3

Part E – Additional comments on this article

{Empty}

▼ ART. 4: MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS

4.1. Has the party taken any appropriate measures to not allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A of the Convention after the phase-out date specified for those products?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Yes (implementing paragraph 2 of article 4)

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

Argentina has regulations prohibiting the import, use, or marketing of the products listed in Annex A, Part A.

It is worth noting that, as of the date of this report, Amendments MC-4/3 and MC-4/5 have not been ratified.

The measures and regulations reported in previous reports are in effect at the time of this report:

–Law 27,356 (approves the Minamata Convention, enacted by Decree 344/2017);

–Resolution 75/2019 of the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development: among other provisions, prohibits, as of January 1, 2020, the manufacture, import, and export of products with added mercury listed in Annex I. It includes the list included in Annex A of the Convention, updated to 2021.

–Resolution 443/2020 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development: establishes the guidelines for the import of primary batteries (cylindrical, prism, or button-shaped, common carbon-zinc, alkaline manganese, silver oxide, zinc-air, and mercury oxide) and of devices or articles that contain them internally or externally. It prohibits the import of mercury oxide batteries in accordance with Resolution 75/19. It establishes that for button batteries, the mercury content by mass of each battery must be less than or equal to 2%. According to Law No. 26,184 of 2006 on Portable Electrical Energy, the maximum mercury content in batteries is 0.0005% by weight in primary batteries, cylindrical or prismatic in shape, common carbon-zinc and alkaline manganese. During the period covered by this report, the aforementioned regulations were supplemented by the following:

– Resolution 110/2021 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development: Approves the procedure for processing Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and obtaining authorization for the import and export of chemical products covered by the Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions, including mercury compounds, inorganic mercury compounds, alkyl mercury compounds, and alkoxyalkyl and aryl mercury compounds.

–Resolution 299/2021 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development: Establishes guidelines for the management of elemental mercury, its mixtures and compounds, as well as products with added mercury, and establishes ex-post control methodology. It prohibits the use of elemental mercury, its mixtures or compounds in the production processes listed in Annex I. It determines the following procedures: application for exemptions for the production of chlor-alkali or the manufacture of mercury thermometers (Annex III); prior informed consent for the import and export of elemental mercury (Annex IV); import and export of elemental mercury, its mixtures and/or compounds (Annex V) and of products containing added mercury (Annex VI).

–ANMAT Provision No. 2709/22: update of the list of permitted preservative substances, where mercury compounds were excluded from permitted uses, being subject to a total prohibition of use in any type of cosmetic product. This reinforces the measures previously reported in prior reports, in relation to ANMAT Provision No. 6433/15.

– Resolution 503/2022 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development: Approves the guidelines relating to the conversion plans for production processes that use mercury as a requirement within the framework of the exemptions for the use of elemental mercury, its mixtures

and/or compounds in production processes and the manufacture of products with added mercury.
– Resolution 31/2023 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development: Establishes the procedure for certifying that primary batteries and cells with a cylindrical or prismatic carbon–zinc and alkaline manganese shape comply with the requirements established in Law No. 26,184 on Portable Electrical Energy.

–Resolution 350/2023 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development: Establishes the minimum technical requirements for mercury storage, which must be met by those who possess this material. It includes mercury as a product intended for permitted use and mercury intended for disposal (waste).

The regulations provide for the intervention of the competent authority in the relevant tariff classifications; however, there are "overall" classifications where it is impossible to distinguish products containing mercury from those that do not. This aspect will be addressed in Part C regarding implementation challenges.

If yes, have the party registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, for which products (please list)?

☒ The following non-electronic measuring devices except non-electronic measuring devices installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement: (a) barometers; (b) hygrometers; (c) manometers; (d) thermometers; (e) sphygmomanometers

4.3: (A) Has the party taken two or more measures listed in subparagraphs (i) to (ix) of part II of annex A for the mercury-added products listed in part II of annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

4.3:(A) Has the party taken two or more measures listed in subparagraphs (i) to (ix) of part II of annex A for the mercury-added products listed in part II of annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

The measures and regulations reported in previous reports are in effect at the time of this report: In 2010, the "Mercury in Argentine Dentistry" conference was held, organized by the National Ministry of Health and the UNDP ARG 09/002 Project, during which work plans were agreed upon to advance the progressive restriction of mercury use as an input in dental practices.

In 2018, the National Directorate of Oral Health of the National Ministry of Health held the Annual Meeting of Dental Representatives.

In 2019, the Federal Council of Oral Health (COFESABU) was held, where provincial dental representatives reported progress in measures aimed at the gradual elimination of dental amalgam. According to the information gathered, most provinces no longer purchase mercury for dental amalgam fillings in the public health system.

During the reporting period, the National Ministry of Health prepared a document on PROCEDURES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF MERCURY WASTE IN DENTAL OFFICES, which is currently undergoing validation and publication. Furthermore, COFESABU (Federal Council of Dental Schools of Bucaramanga) committed to gradually eliminating the use of dental amalgam in clinical practice, and dental schools committed to removing the teaching of amalgam restoration techniques from their curricula.

Regarding mercury-containing dental amalgams, a comprehensive survey of importers was conducted, and the only domestic manufacturer was supported in its conversion process.

A review of Dental Amalgam Registries is underway, revealing that it is imported exclusively in the form of pre-dosed capsules.

4.3: (B) If the amendment to annex A adopted in decision MC-4/3 has entered into force for the party, has the party (please check the appropriate box below) taken relevant measures:

4.3:(B) If the amendment to annex A adopted in decision MC-4/3 has entered into force for the party, has the party (please check the appropriate box below) taken relevant measures:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable

4.4: Has the party taken measures to prevent the incorporation into assembled products of mercury-added products whose manufacture, import and export are not allowed for it under article 4?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No – not applicable (do not have facilities assembling products using mercury-added products)

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

Resolution 443/2020 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development: establishes the guidelines for the importation of primary batteries (cylindrical, prism or button shaped, common carbon zinc, alkaline manganese, silver oxide, zinc-air and mercury oxide) and of the devices or articles that contain them inside or outside.

4.5: Has the party discouraged the manufacture and the distribution in commerce of mercury-added products not covered by any known use in accordance with article 4, paragraph 6?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No – no action taken
- ☐ No – an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product demonstrates benefits to human health or the environment

If the party answered no – no action taken, please explain.

No use of mercury has been detected in products not covered by the Convention, that is, those not explicitly listed or excluded from Annex A. A comment was included in Section E, as we understand that the answer to this question here is “not applicable.”

Part E – Additional comments on this article

{Empty}

▼ ART. 5: MANUFACTURING PROCESSES IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED

5.1: Are there facilities within the territory of the party that use mercury or mercury compounds for the processes listed in Annex B of the Minamata Convention in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 5 of the Convention?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

If yes, please provide information on measures taken to address emissions and releases of mercury or mercury compounds from such facilities.

Argentina has a registered exemption for a process under Annex B and has regulations in place for granting and monitoring it until its expiration date for the applicant. The regulations stipulate that the company must report on the measures to control/reduce mercury emissions and releases into

the atmosphere, water, and soil, as well as the management of mercury waste during both the operational and closure or decommissioning phases.

Once the requirements are met, the competent authority issues an administrative act granting the exemption. Mercury import authorizations are contingent upon the periodic submission of progress reports to the competent authority on the conversion plan within the stipulated timeframe.

Furthermore, failure to comply with the requirements during the exemption period may result in the competent authority revoking the approval of the conversion plan, thereby causing the loss of the exemption.

It should be noted that all mercury waste generated is managed as hazardous waste under national regulations.

The applicable regulations in this case are:

–Resolution 299/2021 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development: It establishes the guidelines regarding the management of elemental mercury, its mixtures and compounds, as well as products with added mercury, and establishes ex-post control methodology. It prohibits the use of elemental mercury, its mixtures or compounds in the production processes listed in Annex I. It determines the following procedures: application for exemptions for the production of chlor-alkali or the manufacture of mercury thermometers (Annex III); prior informed consent for the import and export of elemental mercury (Annex IV); import and export of elemental mercury, its mixtures and/or compounds (Annex V) and of products containing added mercury (Annex VI).

–Resolution 503/2022 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development: Approves the guidelines relating to the plans for the conversion of production processes that use mercury as a requirement within the framework of the exemptions for the use of elemental mercury, its mixtures and/or compounds in production processes and the manufacture of products with added mercury.

If available, please provide information on the number and type of facilities and the estimated annual amount of mercury or mercury compounds used in those facilities.

The exemption applies to a single company that uses mercury in the chlor-alkali process. The mercury used in this process is imported in accordance with procedures stipulated in the regulations, which are aligned with the provisions of the Convention.

Please provide information on how much mercury (in metric tons) is used in the processes listed in the two first entries of Part II of Annex B in the last year of the reporting period.

N/A

5.2: Are measures in place to not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes listed in Part I of Annex B after the phase-out date specified in that Annex for the individual process?

CHLOR-ALKALI PRODUCTION

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

If yes, please provide information on these measures.

Resolution 299/2021 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development: Establishes the guidelines for the management of elemental mercury, its mixtures and compounds, as well as products with added mercury, and establishes ex-post control methodology. It prohibits the use of elemental mercury, its mixtures or compounds in the production processes listed in Annex I (which includes all those listed in Annex B). It determines the following procedures: application for exemptions (Annex III); prior informed consent for the import and export of elemental mercury (Annex IV); import and export of elemental mercury, its mixtures and/or compounds (Annex V); and of products containing added mercury (Annex VI).

Resolution 503/2022 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development: Approves the guidelines for the conversion plans of production processes that use mercury as a requirement within the framework of exemptions for the use of elemental mercury, its mixtures and/or compounds in production processes and the manufacture of products with added mercury.

ACETALDEHYDE PRODUCTION IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED AS A CATALYST

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

5.3: Are measures in place to restrict the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in Part II of Annex B in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER PRODUCTION

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

5.4: Is there any use of mercury or mercury compounds in a facility using the manufacturing processes listed in Annex B that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

5.5: Has the party discouraged the development of any facility using any other manufacturing process in which mercury or mercury compounds are intentionally used that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No – no action taken
- ☐ No – the party demonstrated to the Conference of the Parties the significant environmental and health benefits of the manufacturing process and that there are no technically and economically feasible mercury-free alternatives available providing such benefits.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

An exemption was registered only for Chlor-alkali production, since there are no acetaldehyde production processes in the country that use mercury or mercury compounds.

▼ ART. 7: ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING

7.1: Have steps been taken to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 within your territory?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ There is no artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 in which mercury amalgamation is used in the territory

7.2: Has the party determined, and notified the secretariat, that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is more than insignificant?

☐ Yes

☒ No

7.5: Supplemental: Has the party cooperated with other countries or relevant intergovernmental organizations or other entities to achieve the objective of this article?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please provide information

{Empty}

Part E – Additional comments on this article

{Empty}

▼ ART. 8: EMISSIONS

8.1: Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are new sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (c) of article 8.

For each of those source categories describes the measures in place, including the effectiveness of such measures, to implement the requirements of paragraph 4 of article 8.

☐ Coal-fired power plants

☐ Coal-fired industrial boilers

☐ Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals

☐ Waste incineration facilities

☐ Cement clinker production facilities

Has the party required the use of best available techniques or best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) to control and where feasible reduce emissions for new sources no later than 5 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

☒ Yes

☐ No (please explain)

If yes, please explain.

In 2024, the development of a National Implementation Plan for the Minamata Convention was finalized (it has not yet been published as it is still in the validation stage). This Plan includes an inventory of emissions and releases. Therefore, specific information on new sources can be reported in the next report.

Notwithstanding the above, during the period covered by this report, new sources related to "Waste Incinerators," particularly hazardous waste, were identified.

In Argentina, hazardous waste management is regulated by provincial regulations and, when waste falls under interjurisdictional jurisdiction, by National Law No. 24,051. Decree 831/1993, which regulates the National Hazardous Waste Law, establishes the minimum operating requirements for incinerators. Among these requirements, it stipulates that emission control technologies and strategies must be employed to ensure that the dry gas does not contain more than 30 ng/N m3 of mercury at 10% CO2.

In accordance with applicable national law, the incineration of mercury waste is not permitted. The furnaces are equipped with pre-emission emission treatment systems, and the resulting waste (ash) is managed as hazardous waste. Medical waste is treated using two technologies: incineration and autoclaving (for segregated waste suitable for this technology). Resolution No. 134/16 of the Ministry of Health, which approves the "National Guidelines for Waste Management in Healthcare Facilities," addresses the management of mercury-containing waste in the healthcare sector, including its segregation and differentiated management, in accordance with current regulations. Specifically, and complementing national regulations, and as a measure to prevent emissions of mercury and other pollutants, the implementing authority of Law 24051 (on hazardous waste) enacted Resolution 384/2023, which approves the guidelines for the environmentally sound management of incineration operations and the minimum technical requirements supplementing said law and its regulatory decree No. 831/93, for obtaining or renewing environmental certificates for hazardous waste incinerators. The aforementioned regulations establish mercury emission limits, monitoring requirements, and the obligation to have emission treatment systems appropriate for the waste to be incinerated. Furthermore, it mandates the performance of destruction efficiency tests for initial certification and periodic testing, and provides guidelines for their implementation. This standard contains control elements, in accordance with the "Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Incineration of Hazardous Waste and Other Waste Covered by Operations D10 and R1," approved by Decision BC-15/8, which provides guidelines for preventing emissions. It should be noted that the "Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Consisting of, Containing, or Contaminated with Mercury or Mercury Compounds," approved by Decision BC-15/9, refer to these guidelines for additional technical information regarding the reduction of mercury emissions during waste incineration.

8.2: Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are existing sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (e) of article 8.

For each of those source categories, select and provide details on the measures implemented under paragraph 5 of article 8 and explain the progress that these applied measures have achieved in reducing emissions over time in your territory:

▼ COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☒ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

This information was provided in the previous report. The National Energy Balance (BEN) document, which summarizes information on energy production, imports, exports, transformation, and consumption in Argentina, was used as the basis for estimating these categories.

Progress

In 2024, a National Implementation Plan for the Minamata Convention was finalized (it has not yet been published as it is still in the validation stage). This Plan includes an inventory of emissions and releases. Therefore, specific findings can be reported in the next report.

▼ COAL-FIRED INDUSTRIAL BOILERS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☒ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

This information was provided in the previous report. The National Energy Balance (BEN) document, which summarizes information on energy production, imports, exports, transformation, and consumption in Argentina, was used as the basis for estimating these categories.

Progress

In 2024, a National Implementation Plan for the Minamata Convention was finalized (it has not yet been published as it is still in the validation stage). This Plan includes an inventory of emissions and releases. Therefore, specific findings can be reported in the next report.

▼ SMELTING AND ROASTING PROCESSES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF NON-FERROUS METALS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☒ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

This information was provided in the previous report. Within this group, the production of zinc, copper, and lead from concentrates was evaluated. Of the producing mines whose main mineral is gold, none use the mercury amalgamation method. For these mines, their location was considered for the inventory based on the geology, where mercury is naturally present. In this area, the surveyed mines use the cyanide leaching method. The mercury is recovered prior to the recovery of the main metal (gold) in retort furnaces, before smelting. Depending on the process, it can also be absorbed using activated carbon filters.

Progress

In 2024, a National Implementation Plan for the Minamata Convention was finalized (it has not yet been published as it is still in the validation stage). This Plan includes an inventory of emissions and releases. Therefore, specific findings can be reported in the next report.

▼ WASTE INCINERATION FACILITIES

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☒ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☒ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

In Argentina, hazardous waste management is regulated by provincial regulations and, when waste falls under interjurisdictional jurisdiction, by National Law No. 24,051. Decree 831/1993, which implements the National Hazardous Waste Law, establishes the minimum operating requirements for incinerators. Among these requirements, it stipulates that emission control technologies and strategies must be employed to ensure that the dry gas does not contain more than 30 ng/N m³ of mercury at 10% CO₂.

In accordance with applicable national law, incinerators are equipped with pre-emission emission treatment systems, and the resulting waste (ash) is managed as hazardous waste. Medical waste is treated using two technologies: incineration and autoclaving (for segregated waste suitable for this technology). Ministry of Health Resolution No. 134/16, which approves the "National Guidelines for Waste Management in Healthcare Facilities," addresses the management of mercury-containing waste in the healthcare sector, including its segregation and differentiated handling, in accordance with current regulations.

Specifically, and complementing national regulations, and as a measure to prevent emissions of mercury and other pollutants, the implementing authority of Law 24051 (on hazardous waste) issued Resolution 384/2023. This resolution approves the guidelines for the environmentally sound management of incineration operations and the minimum technical requirements supplementing said law and its implementing decree No. 831/93, for obtaining or renewing environmental certificates for hazardous waste incinerators. These regulations establish mercury emission limits, monitoring requirements, and the obligation to have emission treatment systems appropriate for the type of waste to be incinerated. It also establishes the obligation to conduct destruction efficiency tests for initial and periodic production and provides guidelines for their implementation. This standard contains control elements, in accordance with the "Technical Guidelines on Environmentally Sound Management of Incineration of Hazardous Waste and Other Waste Covered by Operation D10 and R1," approved by Decision BC-15/8, which provides guidelines for preventing emissions. It is worth mentioning that the "Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Consisting of, Containing, or Contaminated with Mercury or Mercury Compounds," approved by Decision BC-15/9, refer to these guidelines for additional technical information regarding the reduction of mercury emissions during waste incineration.

Progress

In 2024, a National Implementation Plan for the Minamata Convention was finalized (it has not yet been published as it is still in the validation stage). This Plan includes an inventory of emissions and releases. Therefore, specific findings can be reported in the next report.

▼ CEMENT CLINKER PRODUCTION FACILITIES

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☒ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

In Argentina, all clinker production processes utilize dry emission treatment systems. These systems also include multi-stage preheating towers and, in most cases, precalciners. Particulate matter is captured using retention systems comprised of cyclones, bag filters, and/or electrostatic precipitators (depending on the specific plant). Periodic monitoring includes, in addition to typical combustion tests, the detection of metals, including mercury. Emission regulations and limits fall under the jurisdiction of the various provinces. Notwithstanding the above, some clinker kilns are authorized under national and provincial regulations to co-process waste as fuel or alternative raw material.

Progress

In 2024, a National Implementation Plan for the Minamata Convention was finalized (it has not yet been published as it is still in the validation stage). This Plan includes an inventory of emissions and releases. Therefore, specific findings can be reported in the next report.

Have the measures for existing sources under paragraph 5 of article 8 been implemented no later than 10 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Please explain

In 2024, the National Implementation Plan for the Minamata Convention was finalized (though not yet published as it is still under review). This Plan includes an inventory of emissions and releases. Therefore, based on the results, measures will be proposed and adopted as needed to complement existing measures, as reported in this and previous reports. Specific details of these results will be provided in the next report.

8.3: Has the party prepared an inventory of emissions from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the Convention for it?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Have not been a party for 5 years

If yes, when was the inventory last updated?

December 31, 2016

Please indicate where this inventory is available

The Minamata Convention Initial Assessment, which includes the mercury inventory based on 2016 data, was reported in 2020. This was included in the first comprehensive report. A National Implementation Plan for the Minamata Convention was finalized in 2024 (it has not yet been published as it is still in the validation stage). This Plan contains an inventory of emissions and releases. Therefore, the specific results will be reported in the next report.

The 2016 inventory was submitted as part of the Minamata Convention Initial Assessment. The 2024 inventory is currently in the validation stage and has not yet been published.

Attach

{Empty}

8.4: Has the party chosen to establish criteria to identify relevant sources covered within a source category?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please explain how the criteria for any category include at least 75 percent of the emissions from that category and explain how the party took into account guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

The 2024 inventory of mercury emissions and releases was based on the Toolkit for the Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases, approved by Decision MC-1/16. It was developed using the Level 1 toolkit. For some categories, a Level 2 toolkit was used because the necessary information was available. The inventory was constructed using nationally available information for the assessed emission sources. The year used to quantify emissions was initially 2022. However, when data for that year was unavailable, the reference year for each category was specified.

Of the total sources presented in the toolkit, approximately 40 are potential mercury emitters and were assessed in the national inventory. It should be noted that the thimerosal production category is not included in the toolkit; it was included within the group "Production of Products Containing Mercury."

8.5: Has the party chosen to prepare a national plan setting out the measures to be to control emissions from relevant sources and taken their expected objectives, goals and outcomes?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, has the party submitted its national plan to the Conference of the Parties under this article no later than 4 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please explain

In 2024, the National Implementation Plan for the Minamata Convention was finalized (though not yet published as it is still under review). This Plan includes an inventory of emissions and releases. Therefore, based on the results, measures will be proposed and adopted as needed to complement existing measures, as reported in this and previous reports. Specific details of these results will be provided in the next report.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

{Empty}

▼ ART. 9: RELEASES

9.1: Are there, within the party's territory, relevant sources of releases as defined in paragraph 2 (b) of article 9?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ I don't know (please explain)

Please indicate the measures taken to address releases from relevant sources and the effectiveness of those measures.

In 2024, the National Implementation Plan for the Minamata Convention was finalized (though not yet published as it is still in the validation stage). This Plan includes an inventory of emissions and releases. Therefore, the results can be specifically reported in the next report.

The Plan considers the sources previously reported in the first comprehensive national report:

primary metal production, the use and disposal of mercury-containing products, chemical production (including processes covered by the Convention for which Argentina has registered exemptions), waste disposal and wastewater treatment, fuel production, waste incineration, and the production of mercury-containing products, among others.

Among the measures previously reported, which remain in effect, are:

- Determination of relevant sources and inventory of mercury releases (currently under review.

Based on the results, specific measures will be proposed, if necessary, to complement those already in place and reported in this and previous reports)

- Guideline levels and discharge parameters for effluents with maximum mercury content established in national and local regulations:

Resolution 410/2018: Technical standard for the sustainable management of sludge and biosolids generated in wastewater treatment plants for sewage and mixed sewage-industrial effluents. It regulates the sustainable management of sludge and biosolids generated in wastewater treatment plants for sewage and mixed sewage and industrial effluents. Mercury is one of the parameters included.

Decree 831/93 (implementing Law 24051 on hazardous waste management) establishes "water quality guideline levels" for conventionally treated drinking water sources, protection of aquatic life in surface freshwater, protection of aquatic life in surface saltwater, and surface brackish water. It establishes mercury as a parameter in all these cases. It also includes "soil quality guideline levels," specifically for mercury. It is important to note that these values are guideline levels, and each local authority may use them as a basis for determining environmental quality objectives, taking into account the specific conditions of the receiving water body.

Decree 674/89 establishes the regulations governing industrial and/or special establishments that continuously or intermittently discharge industrial waste or sludge from their treatment processes into sewers, storm drains, or waterways, in such a way that they may directly or indirectly contaminate water sources, damage the facilities of the water and sanitation company AySA, or affect public health. This regulation aims to prevent and control anthropogenic water pollution resulting from industrial activities.

National Strategy for the Closure of Landfills and Integrated Management of Urban Solid Waste.

9.2: Has the party established an inventory of releases from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the convention for it?

☒ Yes

☐ Relevant sources do not exist in the territory

☐ Have not been a party for 5 years

☐ No (please explain)

When was the inventory last updated?

December 31, 2016

Please indicate where this inventory is available.

{Empty}

Please explain

See additional comments in this section.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

In 2020, the Minamata Convention Initial Assessment for Argentina was reported, which includes the mercury inventory based on 2016 data. The inventory was published in 2018.

In 2024, a National Implementation Plan for the Minamata Convention was finalized (it has not yet been published as it is still in the validation stage). This Plan contains an inventory of emissions and releases. Therefore, the specific results will be reported in the next report.

▼ ART. 10: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND INTERIM STORAGE OF MERCURY, OTHER THAN WASTE MERCURY

10.1: Has the party taken measures to ensure that the interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use permitted to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No (please explain)
- ☐ I don't know (please explain)

If yes, please indicate the measures taken to ensure that such interim storage is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner, and the effectiveness of those measures.

Resolution No. 350/2023 of the then Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development establishes a series of minimum technical requirements for the storage of elemental mercury, whether or not it is intended for disposal. It outlines guidelines for identification, inventory, storage conditions, preventive measures, and a contingency plan.

The technical guidelines of the national regulations take into account those established in the "Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Interim Storage of Mercury Other Than Waste Mercury," approved by Decision MC-2/6, and the storage guidelines of the "Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Consisting of, Containing, or Contaminated by Mercury or Mercury Compounds," approved by Decision BC-15/9 under the Basel Convention.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

{Empty}

▼ ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES

11.1: Have measures outlined in article 11, paragraph 3, been implemented for the party's mercury waste?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Yes – the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner

Please describe measure and effectiveness of measures

{Empty}

- ☐ Yes – the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is recovered, recycled, reclaimed or directly re-used for a use allowed to a party under the Convention or for environmentally sound disposal pursuant to paragraph 3 (a)
- ☐ Yes – the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is not transported across international boundaries except for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal

If the party answered yes to any measures above, please describe the measures implemented pursuant to paragraph 3, and please also describe the effectiveness of those measures.

The wastes covered by Article 11, paragraph 2(a), (b), and (c), are considered hazardous waste under national regulations and must be managed in accordance with the scope and application of two main framework regulations:

Law 24051 (of 1992) and its Regulatory Decree 831/93 on hazardous waste. The waste generated is managed as provided for in these regulations, and the wastes defined by the Convention in Decision MC-3/5 are managed within that framework. It should be noted that Argentina has a total ban on the entry of current and potentially hazardous waste into its national territory.

This regulatory framework includes technical requirements for storage, a waste traceability system from the generator to the treatment or final disposal plant, and establishes a mechanism for obtaining an annual renewable environmental certificate (issued by the national Competent Authority). Generators, transporters, and operators must obtain this certificate if their hazardous waste crosses the borders of the jurisdiction where it is generated or is received from another jurisdiction for processing. Each jurisdiction also has its own local regulations on this matter, which,

in many cases, adhere to the national standard.

Specifically, during the period covered by this report, the national competent environmental authority enacted the following regulations directly related to the management of mercury waste:

- Resolution 350/2023 (which establishes the minimum technical requirements for mercury storage, which must be met by those entities possessing this material, whether as stock for future permitted use or obtained as a byproduct or as waste); and,
- Resolution 384/2023 which approves the guidelines for the environmentally sound management of incineration operations and the minimum requirements complementary to Law 24.051 on Hazardous Waste and its regulatory decree No. 831/93.

By virtue of paragraph 3 of article 11 of the Convention, the technical content of both standards is aligned with the provisions of the "Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Consisting of, Containing and Contaminated with Mercury and Mercury Compounds", adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, in its last revision (BC-15/9); and the "Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Storage of Mercury Other Than Waste", adopted by Decision MC-2/6 of the Parties to the Minamata Convention.

- Decree 779/2022: In 2022, Law 25.916 of 2013, concerning the minimum standards for the management of household waste, was regulated (Decree 779/2022). Among its provisions, it establishes a list of special waste generated universally, for which the competent authorities and those responsible for implementing this regulation must establish special management programs, given their particular characteristics of hazard, harmfulness, or toxicity, as they may present significant risks to human or animal health, or to environmental resources. Among the waste listed are certain items that contain or may contain mercury, such as mercury-containing energy-saving light bulbs; Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE); batteries, thermometers, sphygmomanometers; and medications.

Regarding mercury waste from mining activities, as defined in paragraph 2 of the Convention, Argentina has a national regulatory framework for its management, as detailed below: Law 24,585 amends the Mining Code and, among its provisions, incorporates the supplementary title "Environmental Protection for Mining Activities." Mining waste has unique characteristics that warrant specific treatment, and therefore, in 2021, the Mining Secretariat issued Resolution 181/2021, which establishes the General Guidelines for the Rational Management of Mining Waste. The text approved by the Federal Mining Council on Minimum Standards, Annex IV, Table 7, Soil Quality Guideline Levels for Mercury (constituent) for Industrial Soil Use, sets a limit of 20 µg/g ppm, lower than that previously adopted in MC-4/6. The Mining Secretariat, the competent authority for mining, prioritizes the dissemination of Decisions regarding gold and silver mining projects, emphasizing that there is no primary mercury mining in Argentina.

Law 23,922 approves the Basel Convention. The competent authority issued the necessary complementary regulations for its implementation, including Resolution 58/17, which operationalizes the export of hazardous waste and the PIC procedure for mercury waste that cannot be treated in the country due to a lack of suitable technology to ensure its environmentally sound management.

11.2: *Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party's territory?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know (please explain)

If the party answered yes to any measures above, please select from the following

- ☐ Yes – there are facilities in the party's territory
- ☒ Yes – there are facilities outside the party's territory accessible to the party (in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 11)

Kindly attach any additional relevant information

{Empty}

Part E – Additional comments on this article

Mercury waste (Art. 11.2(a)): Argentina is a Party to the Basel Convention. Elemental mercury waste is exported under that Convention for final disposal. Transboundary movements of such hazardous waste were reported by Argentina in the annual national reports submitted as required by the

Convention.

Section C addresses the challenges related to mercury waste management.

▼ ART. 12: CONTAMINATED SITES

12.1: Has the party endeavoured to develop strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds in its territory?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please elaborate

Since 2006, the competent national authority has operated a Program for the Environmental Management of Contaminated Sites (PROSICO), established by Resolution No. 515/2006 and amended by Resolution No. 940/2015. PROSICO provides technical assistance and advice in various cases, such as court orders, public information requests, applications from local jurisdictions, and collaboration with other areas within the environmental ministry. It also offers virtual and in-person training to provincial and municipal governments. PROSICO includes a Methodological Manual for the environmental management of contaminated sites. More information about the program can be found at <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/ambiente/control/sitios-contaminados>

Part E – Additional comments on this article

{Empty}

▼ ART. 13: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISM

13.1: Has the party undertaken to provide, within its capabilities, resources in respect of those national activities that are intended to implement the Convention in accordance with its national policies, priorities, plans and programs?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please specify

Argentina implemented – and continues to implement – externally funded projects to support and build national capacities related to the implementation of the Minamata Convention:

Project within the framework of the SIP 2018/01/LAC/ARG Specific International Program “Capacity Building Program for the Implementation of the Minamata Convention”: This project was implemented between 2019 and 2022 by the Ministry of Environment with the support of the Basel Regional Centre for South America for Capacity and Technology Transfer in Argentina, based at INTI. The project closure report and activities can be found at

<https://minamataconvention.org/es/projects/programa-de-fortalecimiento-de-capacidades-para-la-implementacion-del-convenio-de-minamata>.

UNDP ARG 20/G27 Project “Environmentally Sound Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants, Mercury and Other Hazardous Substances in Argentina”, initiated in 2020, with UNDP support and GEF funding. The objective of this project is to strengthen national capacities for the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances and chemicals throughout their entire life cycle. In this way, it promotes compliance with the commitments undertaken by our country in the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions.

Among the main activities related to mercury are:

- the implementation of a pilot project for the environmentally sound management of mercury produced as waste by the mining sector, which resulted in the disposal of 564.8 gross tons of mercury between 2019 and 2024; and
- the development of a National Strategy for the Implementation of a Pollutant Release and Transfer

Register (PRTR) in Argentina and the execution of a pilot project in the Matanza–Riachuelo River Basin. This project was carried out in collaboration with the Matanza–Riachuelo Basin Authority (ACUMAR).

• Between 2021 and 2023, through agreements with environmental laboratories belonging to various organizations and a public university research institute, environmental monitoring of chemical substances and products was carried out within the Southern Coastal Strip of the Río de la Plata Basin. This action allowed for the evaluation of mercury levels in surface water and sediment samples. The data are available on the publicly accessible platform, the Integrated Environmental Information System (SInIA). For more information, please visit <https://ciam.ambiente.gob.ar/repositorio.php?tid=8&std=78&did=385>.

13.2: Supplemental: Has the party, within its capabilities, contributed to the mechanism referred to in paragraph 5 of article 13?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

13.3: Supplemental: Has the party provided financial resources to assist developing-country parties and/or parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention through other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

{Empty}

Please provide comments, if any.

According to the Global Environment Facility, Argentina is classified in the list of recipient countries, as it is a developing country.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

{Empty}

▼ ART. 14: CAPACITY-BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

14.1: Has the party cooperated to provide capacity-building or technical assistance, pursuant to article 14, to another party to the Convention?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please specify

During 2024, and within the period covered by this report, the Basel Regional Centre for South America (BCRC Argentina – INTI) carried out cooperative activities aimed at strengthening capacities and providing technical assistance through the project “Minamata Training Tools: Products with Added Mercury and Mercury Waste,” clarifying that its continuation extended beyond the reporting period.

The project aimed to support Latin American countries in understanding and implementing the provisions of the Convention related to products with added mercury and the environmentally sound management of mercury waste, through the development and dissemination of training materials and technical training activities.

Within this initiative, three regional webinars were held for public officials, technical experts, and other relevant stakeholders from various countries in the region, focusing on:

- products with added mercury and obligations under the Convention,
- mercury waste management, and
- preparation for the Second Comprehensive National Report to the Convention Secretariat.

These actions constituted instances of technical cooperation and capacity building, in line with the provisions of Article 14, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

Argentina was invited as a presenter in several webinars organized by the Basel Regional Centre for South America (BCRC Argentina – INTI), together with the Minamata Convention Secretariat.

14.2: Supplemental: Has the party received capacity-building or technical assistance pursuant to article 14?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please specify

Within the framework of projects and activities related to the implementation of the Minamata Convention, the Central Reserve Bank of Argentina (BCRC) acted as an implementing and coordinating entity for technical cooperation actions, contributing to capacity building and the provision of assistance to countries in the region, in line with the objectives of Article 14 of the Convention.

Among the activities that benefited public officials, technicians, and other relevant stakeholders from various countries in the region, including Argentina, were three regional webinars focused on:

- products with added mercury and obligations under the Convention,
- mercury waste management, and
- preparation for the drafting of the Second Comprehensive National Report to the Convention Secretariat.

Furthermore, within the framework of the national environmental authority, a project was implemented under the SIP 2018/01/LAC/ARG Specific International Program, "Capacity Building Program for the Implementation of the Minamata Convention." This project was carried out between 2019 and 2022 by the Ministry of Environment with the support of the Basel Regional Centre for South America for Capacity and Technology Transfer in Argentina, based at INTI. The project's closing report and activities can be found at

<https://minamataconvention.org/es/projects/programa-de-fortalecimiento-de-capacidades-para-la-implementacion-del-convenio-de-minamata>

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

14.3: Has the party promoted and facilitated the development, transfer and diffusion of and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Other

Please specify

During the period covered by this report, and within the framework of the project and the training activities carried out, the Central Bank of Rio Grande do Sul (BCRC) Argentina promoted the dissemination of technical and regulatory information on environmentally sound alternatives to products with added mercury, as well as approaches and practices for the environmentally appropriate management of mercury waste.

These actions contributed to facilitating access to alternative technologies and solutions through the transfer of technical knowledge, the exchange of experiences, and awareness-raising among stakeholders, particularly in Latin American countries, in accordance with the provisions of Article 14, paragraph 3, of the Convention.

Among other activities, in 2021 the national environmental authority offered a comprehensive 48-hour Mercury Seminar that included in its curriculum all aspects related to mercury management throughout its life cycle. This activity even allowed public employees to earn professional development credits. The content included mercury in industry, aspects related to health and ecotoxicology, monitoring programs, analytical techniques and waste management, with expert speakers from the competent national environmental authority (at that time, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development), the Ministry of Health, the National Atomic Energy Commission, the Argentine Geological Mining Service, the National Institute of Industrial Technology; as well as experts from the academic field, among others.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

{Empty}

▼ ART. 16: HEALTH ASPECTS

16.1: Have measures been taken to provide information to the public on exposure to mercury in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 16?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.

Among other activities, in 2021 the national environmental authority offered a comprehensive 48-hour Mercury Seminar that included all aspects related to mercury management in its curriculum. This activity even allowed public employees to earn professional development credits. The content covered mercury in industry, health and ecotoxicology aspects, monitoring programs, analytical techniques, and waste management, featuring expert presenters from the competent national environmental authority (at that time, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development), the Ministry of Health, the National Atomic Energy Commission, the Argentine Geological and Mining Service, and the National Institute of Industrial Technology; as well as experts from academia, among others.

The Ministry of Health was responsible for a module on mercury management and health. Furthermore, it is noted that, among the recommendations for health care in cases of mercury poisoning, communication channels, consultations, and contact information for the National Poison Control Center were disseminated.

The national environmental authority also disseminates information to the general public.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/contenidos/mercurio-en-casa>

16.2: Have any measures been taken to protect human health in accordance with article 16 beyond the provision of information to the public on exposure to mercury (referred to in question 16.1)?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.

Argentina has regulations concerning occupational health and safety, applicable throughout the country. Through the Superintendency of Occupational Risks, for example, technical reference documents are developed and disseminated. One example is "Occupational Toxicology: Criteria for Monitoring the Health of Workers Exposed to Hazardous Chemicals, Updated to 2022," which addresses mercury, among other substances. This document outlines criteria for monitoring the health of workers exposed to mercury and its compounds, reference values, etc. Further information and publications can be found at <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/srt>

Part E – Additional comments on this article

{Empty}

▼ ART. 17: INFORMATION EXCHANGE

17.1: Has the party facilitated the exchange of information referred to in article 17, paragraph 1?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, the Party may wish to indicate in the space provided below the exchange of information it has facilitated, such as:

- ☐ Scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information
- ☐ Information on the reduction or elimination of the production, use, trade, emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds
- ☐ Information on technically and economically viable alternatives to:
- ☐ Epidemiological information concerning health impacts associated with exposure to mercury and mercury compounds, in close cooperation with the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, as appropriate. (Art. 17.1 (a)–(d))

Part E – Additional comments on this article

Argentina has exchanged information with multiple Parties in different areas and international working groups, including: Expert groups established under the Minamata and Basel Conventions; the Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste for Latin America and the Caribbean, established within the framework of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment; the ad hoc group on chemicals and waste of Working Subgroup No. 6 on the Environment of Mercosur; exchanges between project teams funded by the GEF, the SIP, and the Special Programme; and publication of information on the website of the competent national environmental authority.

▼ ART. 18: PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

18.1: Have measures been taken to promote and facilitate the provision to the public of the kinds of information listed in article 18, paragraph 1?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, the party may wish to indicate in the space provided below, the measures it has to promote and facilitate information to the public, such as:

(a) Provision to the public of available information on:

- ☒ The effects of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment

The effects of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment

See comments below.

- ☐ Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds
- ☐ The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17
- ☐ The results of its research, development and monitoring activities under article 19
- ☒ Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

See comments below.

(b) Education, training and public awareness related to the effects of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and vulnerable populations, as appropriate.

Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

Law 25,675: This law establishes minimum standards for achieving sustainable and adequate environmental management, preserving and protecting biological diversity, and implementing sustainable development. It sets forth the principles of environmental policy and addresses environmental impact assessment, education and information, citizen participation, and other aspects relevant to its purpose. This law mandates that the Executive Branch, through its competent agencies, prepare an annual report on the country's environmental situation, which it will submit to the National Congress. This report includes the implementation of the Minamata Convention. The report is publicly available at the following link:

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/ambiente/acuerdo-de-escazu/acceso-la-informacion->

ambiental/informe-del-estado-del-ambiente

Law No. 27,592: This law aims to guarantee comprehensive environmental training for individuals working in the public sector within the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of the national government. In this context, training programs include topics related to the implementation of the Minamata Convention.

Law 25831: This law establishes the minimum environmental protection standards to guarantee the right of access to environmental information held by the State, at the national, provincial, municipal, and City of Buenos Aires levels, as well as by autonomous entities and public service providers, whether public, private, or mixed. It establishes the regime of free access to public environmental information.

Law 27566: Approval of the Escazú Agreement by the Argentine Republic. This is a regional agreement on access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Further information on accessing information can be found at:

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/ambiente/articulacion-ambiental/formacion-ambiental>.

The aforementioned regulations, as well as all those mentioned in this report, can also be consulted at www.infoleg.gob.ar.

The national enforcement authority has a specific section on its website dedicated to the Convention and related activities: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/ambiente/control/productos-quimicos/mercurio>. There you will find details of the various dissemination and training activities provided on the implementation of the Convention, including those channeled through the different projects that have been implemented and are currently underway, for example, the activities and communication materials developed within the framework of Project SIP 2018/01/LAC/ARG "Capacity Building Program for the Implementation of the Minamata Convention" (<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/ambiente/control/sip>).

Furthermore, Argentina offers the following tools for accessing environmental information:

The Environmental Information Center (CIAM) is an integrated system for the production, collection, and dissemination of environmental information from the national government to guarantee transparency and facilitate the exercise of the right of access to public information.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/ambiente/ciam>

The Environmental Laboratories Network (RLA) is a unified information platform for public and private environmental laboratories, allowing users to identify their technical capabilities and their distribution throughout the country. The RLA website is a space where laboratories can voluntarily report the main analytical services they offer. The website

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/ambiente/evaluacion-y-control-ambiental/red-de-laboratorios-ambientales> allows users to consult the analytical capacity of laboratories for substances or groups of substances related to environmental matters in water, soil, and biota matrices, among others. The tool was presented in 2023 at the National Meeting of Environmental Laboratories, which was attended by 106 officials and technicians from 43 public and private institutions. This tool allows for the easy identification and geolocation of national laboratories capable of measuring mercury and its compounds, thus reducing sample transportation costs and increasing the visibility of local laboratories.

Among other activities, in 2021 the national environmental authority offered a comprehensive 48-hour Mercury Seminar that included all aspects of mercury management in its curriculum. This seminar even allowed public employees to earn professional development credits. The content covered mercury in industry, health and ecotoxicology aspects, monitoring programs, analytical techniques, and waste management, featuring expert presenters from the competent national environmental authority (at the time, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development), the Ministry of Health, the National Atomic Energy Commission, the Argentine Geological and Mining Service, and the National Institute of Industrial Technology; as well as experts from academia, among others.

The Ministry of Health was responsible for a module on mercury management and health.

Furthermore, it was noted that, among the recommendations for health care in cases of mercury poisoning, communication channels, consultations, and contact information for the National Poison Control Center were disseminated.

Within the scope of the national environmental authority, information is also disseminated to the general public, for example, for the general public, "Mercury at home"

(<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/contenidos/mercurio-en-casa>)

(Art. 18 (1) (a) and (b))

Part E – Additional comments on this article

{Empty}

▼ ART. 19: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING

19.1: Has the party undertaken any research, development and monitoring in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 19?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, the party may wish to indicate in the space provided below, the research, development and monitoring it has undertaken, such as:

☒ Inventories of use, consumption, anthropogenic emissions to air and releases to water and land of mercury and mercury compounds

Inventories of use, consumption, anthropogenic emissions to air and releases to water and land of mercury and mercury compounds

See additional comments in Part E.

☐ Modeling and geographically representative monitoring of levels of mercury and mercury compounds in vulnerable populations and in environmental media, including biotic media such as fish, marine mammals, sea turtles and birds, as well as collaboration in the collection and exchange of relevant and appropriate samples

☐ Assessments of the impact of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment, in addition to social, economic and cultural impacts, particularly in respect of vulnerable populations

☐ Harmonized methodologies for the activities undertaken under subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 1 of article 19

☐ Information on the environmental cycle, transport (including long-range transport and deposition), transformation and fate of mercury and mercury compounds in a range of ecosystems, taking appropriate account of the distinction between anthropogenic and natural emissions and releases of mercury and of remobilization of mercury from historical deposition

☐ Information on commerce and trade in mercury and mercury compounds and mercury-added products

☐ Information and research on the technical and economic availability of mercury-free products and processes and on best available techniques and best environmental practices to reduce and monitor emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds

(Art. 19 (1) (a)–(g))

Part E – Additional comments on this article

Between 2021 and 2023, through agreements with environmental laboratories belonging to various organizations and a public university research institute, environmental monitoring of substances and chemicals was carried out within the Southern Coastal Strip of the Río de la Plata Basin. This allowed for the evaluation of mercury levels in surface water and sediment samples. The data are available on the publicly accessible platform, the Integrated Environmental Information System (SInIA). For more information, please visit <https://ciam.ambiente.gob.ar/repositorio.php?tid=8&stid=78&did=385>.

In 2024, within the framework of the UNDP ARG20/G27 project, work was undertaken on the development of the National Implementation Plan for the Minamata Convention, including an inventory of emissions and releases. The purpose of this plan is to define the current status of mercury and mercury compound stockpiles and the activities that generate emissions and releases, in order to establish the actions the country will implement for their proper management and

compliance with the obligations of the Convention. This document is currently in the validation stage.

▼ COMMENTS REGARDING POSSIBLE CHALLENGES IN MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION

Part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention

Since its adoption, Argentina has been making constant and continuous efforts toward the proper implementation of the Convention at the national level. The measures are progressive and cumulative, meaning that those reported in previous national reports continue to be implemented.

However, challenges remain, the main ones identified being those related to Articles 3, 4, and 11:

- Identification and control of international trade in products with added mercury, due to the difficulty of identifying imported and exported goods under various tariff classifications. Correctly identifying the tariff classification is essential for control, both in terms of production and marketing. In this regard, we believe that when a new chemical or product is submitted for consideration, the decision should include a request to the World Customs Organization to open the tariff classification (if it is a candidate, prior to the product or substance being addressed at the COP), in order to ensure that countries have accurate data on the use, users, and quantities involved.
- Development and implementation of strategies for the identification, treatment, and final disposal of products with added mercury when they are discontinued (or expired), and which become mercury-containing waste. Treatment capacity at the national level is still limited for certain waste streams; therefore, with the availability of local technology, we understand that the implementation of specific strategies would be accelerated, even for the management of small stockpiles of waste that may eventually be generated.
- Implementation of best environmental practices and best available technologies for the control and reduction of emissions and releases from existing and new sources: the main challenge in compiling the inventories was identifying the sources and accessing the relevant information.
- Complexity of conducting surveys and epidemiological studies on mercury exposure and its residues.

In 2024, within the framework of the UNDP ARG20/G27 project, work was carried out on the development of the National Implementation Plan for the Minamata Convention, including an inventory of emissions and releases. The purpose of this plan is to define the current status of mercury and mercury compound stockpiles and the activities that generate emissions and releases, in order to establish the actions the country will implement for their proper management and compliance with the obligations of the Convention. This document is currently in the validation stage.

To address these challenges, an enabling tool is access to international financing within existing financial mechanisms, which will therefore estimate the provision of new, additional, stable and predictable financial resources from developed countries to developing countries.

▼ COMMENTS REGARDING THE REPORTING FORMAT AND POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS, IF ANY

Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any

Regarding the question on Article 3.4: the answer option is unclear: “No – has determined it has no excess mercury.” We believe there should be an option to select: “Yes – it was determined, but there is no excess mercury.”

Regarding the question on Article 4.5: In the case of Argentina, we understand that, since no uses beyond those known and covered by the convention were detected, the obligation to discourage such use is abstract. Perhaps an answer option could be added: “Not Applicable,” along with a field

to explain the reasons (for example, because no unknown use was detected).

Print