# 2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

*Report submitted on 26 December 2025*
*Question 4.3 amended by Japan on 6 March 2026

**REPORTING PERIOD:**
1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024

*Attachments can be found on the website*

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

## 1. Information on the party

**Name of party**
Japan

**Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited**
2 February 2016

**Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party**
16 August 2017

## 2. Information on the national focal point

**Full name of the institution**
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Title of Contact Officer**
Ms.

**Name of Contact Officer**
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## 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

▼ 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 endeavoured 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 endeavoured 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

**i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the Internet;**

- JPN_3.3a.pdf

**i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the Internet;**
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**ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information – for example, on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks.**
The national government requires any business operator with storage of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 30 kg during the relevant fiscal year to report annually with the purpose of the storage and a breakdown of the annual balance, including the amount used for each purpose and the amount that has become waste. In the fiscal year 2023 (April 2023 to March 2024), 57 business establishments had stocks exceeding 30 kg of mercury or mercury compounds, and the reported amount of storage at the end of the fiscal year 2023 was 139.625 t.
Business operators with storage of mercury exceeding 50 t have been identified since 2020 by this reporting system.

Summary of reporting on the storage of mercury or mercury compounds
Fiscal Year 2020 (April 2020 – March 2021):
https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/tmms/law/teikihoukoku/r02.html
Fiscal Year 2021 (April 2021 – March 2022):
https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/tmms/law/teikihoukoku/r03.html
Fiscal Year 2022 (April 2022 – March 2023):
https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/tmms/law/teikihoukoku/r04.html
Fiscal Year 2023 (April 2023 – March 2024):
https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/tmms/law/teikihoukoku/r05_00001.html

## 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?

**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

**i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the Internet;**
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**i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the Internet;**
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**ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information – for example, on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks.**
While information on individual operators is confidential, mercury storage reports submitted under the Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury confirm that a business operator has manufactured and sold mercury exceeding 10 metric tons since the fiscal year 2017.

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

- ○ Yes
- ○ No – has determined it has no excess mercury
- ◉ No – has 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

## ba35_subsection

If the party answered yes,(a) and the party has submitted copies of the consent forms to the secretariat, then no further information is needed.If the party has not previously provided such copies, it is recommended that it do so.

**(a) and the party has submitted copies of the consent forms to the secretariat, then no further information is needed.**
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**Otherwise, please provide other suitable information showing that the relevant requirements of paragraph 6 of article 3 have been met.**
To ensure that mercury and mercury compounds exported from Japan do not cause environmental pollution or impose adverse effects on human health due to improper use at destination, we amended the Export Trade Control Order, which came into effect on August 16, 2017. The Export Trade Control Order, in principle, prohibits exports of certain mercury compounds in addition to those regulated by the Minamata Convention (mercury compounds subject to the Export Trade Control Order are called as "specific mercury compounds"). Exports of mercury or specific mercury compounds are approved only for the uses allowed under the Convention. In addition, Japan prohibits exports of mercury or specific mercury compounds for the purpose of artisanal and small-scale gold mining and interim storage although not prohibited under the Convention. In particular, the following conditions should be met to allow the export: a written consent has been provided (Article 3.6(a) for Parties and Article 3.6(b) for non-Parties); for non-Parties, it can be confirmed that measures are taken to comply with the provisions of Articles 10 and 11 of the Convention; whether the uses allowed under the Convention (other than ASGM and interim storage) are specified; and the end uses and end users are specified. In the case of exports to non-Parties, it should be further confirmed in writing that measures have been taken to protect human health and the environment. In addition to the above, measures based on the Rotterdam Convention are taken as appropriate.

Exporters of mercury and specific mercury compounds must submit the following information to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) every six months. This reporting obligation continues from the date of approval until the entire exported quantity has been utilized:
・Name and location of the end-user
・Date of acceptance and the quantity received by the end user
・Intended end use (including product type and mercury content if used in manufacturing)
・Quantity used and the remaining balance

**Supplemental: please provide information on the use of the exported mercury.**
{Empty}

**Kindly attach all relevant information**
{Empty}

**(b) If exports were based on a general notification in accordance with article 3, paragraph 7, please indicate, if available, the total amount exported and any relevant terms or conditions in the general notification related to use.**

{Empty}

**Relevant terms or conditions in the general notification related to use**
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## 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

For 3.1, there have been no primary mercury mines in Japan since the closure of the Itomuka mine in 1974. By amending the Mining Act, the national government made rights for the mining of mercury ore ceased on the day before the entry into force of the Convention (15 August 2017).

▼ 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.**
Pursuant to the Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury and the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, the manufacture, import and export of mercury-added products listed in original text of Annex A to the Convention have been, in principle, prohibited since the end of 2020. In addition, the deadline for the phasing-out of batteries*, fluorescent lamps, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals other than merbromin solution was set for the end of 2017, earlier than specified in the Convention.
*Note: phase-out date of button alkaline manganese batteries was the end of 2020.

In response to decisions adopted at COP4, the Enforcement Order for the Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury was amended in November 2023 to prohibit the manufacture of certain mercury-added products ahead of schedule (effective January 1, 2025). In December 2024, additional products (excluding those already subject to measures) were brought under the manufacturing ban to reflect decision at COP4 and COP5. The enforcement dates vary by product, scheduled for January 1 of 2026, 2027 and 2028.

Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury
https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/ja/laws/view/3232/tb

Overview of the Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury
https://www.env.go.jp/content/000227313.pdf

Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act
https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/en/laws/view/4857

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

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

## 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.**
Based on the Act concerning the Promotion of Dental and Oral Health, the targets and plans for the prevention of dental caries to be treated with dental amalgam are stipulated. Furthermore, based on the National Health Insurance Act and other medical insurance acts, Japan has taken measures such as not giving preferential treatment to dental amalgam for the calculation of expenses claimed by insured medical institutions.
Since April 2016, the use of dental amalgam has been excluded from health insurance coverage. Even prior to this measure, the number of claims for dental amalgam was already negligible; therefore it can be concluded that its use has already been phased out in Japan.

Japan's submission on measures on dental amalgam
http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/meetings/COP4/submissions/Japan_DentalAmalgam.pdf

## 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

**If the party answered yes please select from the bellow checkboxes**

Excluded or not allowed, by taking measures as appropriate, the use of mercury in bulk form by dental practitioners

Excluded or not allowed, by taking measures as appropriate, or recommended against, the use of dental amalgam for the dental treatment of deciduous teeth of patients under 15 years of age and of pregnant and breastfeeding women, except when such use is considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient

**If the party answered yes to either option above, please provide information on the measures.**
Relevant measures had already been implemented prior to Decision MC4/3

## 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.**
The Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury designates mercury-added products whose manufacture is particularly in need of regulation as Specified Mercury-Using Products. The Act prohibits, in principle, the manufacture of Specified Mercury-Using Products and of assembled products that incorporate them as components.

Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury
https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/ja/laws/view/3232/tb

Overview of the Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury
https://www.env.go.jp/content/000227313.pdf

Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act
https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/en/laws/view/4857

## 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 yes, please provide information on the measures.**

From the date of entry into force of the Convention, the Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury requires business operators to notify the competent Minister for their intention to manufacture mercury-added products not covered by any known use at least 45 days before the manufacturing. In notifying the competent Minister, business operators shall also submit a result of self-assessment which demonstrates that the use of such products will contribute to the protection of the human health and living environment.

## Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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
- Do not know

### 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)

#### 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.

**If yes, please provide information on the measures taken.**
Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury prohibits the use of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes since the date of entry into force of the Convention. In addition, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has been discouraging the development of new manufacturing processes that intentionally use mercury, which were not identified at the time the Convention entered into force. The METI also requires prior consultation before any such development is pursued.

## Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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 describe 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 power plants**
From April 2018, new sources (14 facilities as of the end of March 2024) are subject to the mercury emission limit value (8 µg/Nm3) established based on BAT/BEP.
No new coal-fired power plants were identified that exceeded the above emission limit value between April 2023 and March 2024.

☑ Coal-fired industrial boilers

**Coal-fired industrial boilers**
From April 2018, new sources (two facilities as of the end of March 2024) are subject to the mercury emission limit value (10 µg/Nm3) established based on BAT/BEP.
No new coal-fired industrial boilers were identified that exceeded the above emission limit value between April 2023 and March 2024.

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

**Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals**
From April 2018, new sources (seven facilities as of the end of March 2024) are subject to the mercury emission limit values established based on BAT/BEP as shown below.
Primary metal facilities:
- Copper or industrial gold: 15 µg/Nm3
- Lead or zinc facilities: 30 µg/Nm3
Secondary metal facilities:
- Copper, lead or zinc: 100 µg/Nm3
- Industrial gold: 30 µg/Nm3

Considering economic feasibility and current emission levels, the emission standard for new copper, lead, or zinc secondary refining facilities has been revised to 50 µg/Nm³ since October 2025.

No new non-ferrous metal smelting and roasting facilities were identified that exceeded the above emission standards between April 2023 and March 2024.

☑ Waste incineration facilities

**Waste incineration facilities**
From April 2018, new sources (237 facilities as of the end of March 2024) are subject to the mercury emission limit values established based on BAT/BEP as shown below.
- Waste incinerators (municipal and industrial waste/sewage sludge incinerators): 30 µg/Nm3
- Incinerators for sludge contaminated with mercury: 50 µg/Nm3

Two new waste incineration facilities were identified that exceeded above emission limit values between April 2023 and March 2024.

☑ Cement clinker production facilities

**Cement clinker production facilities**

From April 2018, new sources (no facilities exist as of the end of March 2024) are subject to the mercury emission limit value (50 µg/Nm3) established based on BAT/BEP.

**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**
Regulations Amended to Control Mercury Emission toward the Effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
https://www.env.go.jp/content/000038977.pdf

## 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
- [x] Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- [ ] Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- [x] Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- [ ] Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

**Measures**
Emission limit value:
From April 2018, existing sources are subject to the mercury emission limit value (10 µg/Nm3).

Multi-pollutant strategy:
Soot and smoke-related regulations (Order to Change Plans, restrictions on soot and smoke emissions, Order for Improvement, etc.) based on the Air Pollution Control Act are considered to have contributed partially to the control of mercury emissions.

**Progress**
Emission limit value:
Of the 172 existing sources, three coal-fired power plants were identified that exceeded the above emission limit value between April 2023 and March 2024.

### ▼ COAL-FIRED INDUSTRIAL BOILERS

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

**Measures**
Emission limit value:
From April 2018, existing sources are subject to the mercury emission limit value (15 µg/Nm3).

Multi-pollutant strategy:
Soot and smoke-related regulations (Order to Change Plans, restrictions on soot and smoke emissions, Order for Improvement, etc.) based on the Air Pollution Control Act are considered to have contributed partially to the control of mercury emissions.

**Progress**
Of the 61 existing sources, no coal-fired industrial boilers were identified that exceeded the above emission limit value between April 2023 and March 2024.

▼ 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
- [x] Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- [ ] Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- [x] Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- [ ] Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

**Measures**
Emission limit value:
From April 2018, existing sources are subject to the following mercury emission limit values.
Primary metal facilities:
- Copper or industrial gold: 30 μg/Nm3
- Lead or zinc facilities: 50 μg/Nm3
Secondary metal facilities:
- Copper, lead or zinc: 400 μg/Nm3
- Industrial gold: 50 μg/Nm3

Considering economic feasibility and current emission levels, the emission standard for existing secondary copper smelting facilities has been revised to 300 μg/Nm³ since October 2025.

Multi-pollutant strategy:
Soot and smoke-related regulations (Order to Change Plans, restrictions on soot and smoke emissions, Order for Improvement, etc.) based on the Air Pollution Control Act are considered to have contributed partially to the control of mercury emissions.

**Progress**
Of the 134 existing sources, no non-ferrous metal smelting and roasting facilities were identified that exceeded the above emission limit values between April 2023 and March 2024.

▼ WASTE INCINERATION FACILITIES

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

**Measures**
Emission limit values:
From April 2018, existing sources are subject to the following mercury emission limit values.
- Waste incinerators (municipal and industrial waste/sewage sludge incinerators): 50 μg/Nm3
- Incinerators for sludge containing mercury: 100 μg/Nm3

Multi-pollutant strategy:
Soot and smoke-related regulations (Order to Change Plans, restrictions on soot and smoke emissions, Order for Improvement, etc.) based on the Air Pollution Control Act are considered to have contributed partially to the control of mercury emissions.

Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources
Measures for the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes under the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Act are considered to have contributed partially to the control of mercury emissions.

**Progress**

Of the 3,061 existing sources, 53 waste incineration facilities were found to have exceeded the above emission limit values between April 2023 and March 2024.

▼ CEMENT CLINKER PRODUCTION FACILITIES

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

**Measures**
Emission limit values:
From April 2018, existing sources are subject to the mercury emission limit value (80 μg/Nm3 (140 μg/Nm3 for those with a mercury content of 0.05 mg/kg or more in the raw limestone)).

Use of BAT/BEP:
The Japan Cement Association has requested its member companies to utilize waste data sheets to identify mercury concentrations of waste input to cement kilns in relation to the measure of selecting raw materials and fuels with less mercury content. This measure is listed as a BAT in the BAT/BEP guidance document developed under Article 8 of the Convention.

Multi-pollutant strategy:
Soot and smoke-related regulations (Order to Change Plans, restrictions on soot and smoke emissions, Order for Improvement, etc.) based on the Air Pollution Control Act are considered to have contributed partially to the control of mercury emissions.

**Progress**
Of the 51 existing sources, six cement clinker production facilities were found to have exceed the above emission limit value between April 2023 and March 2024.

**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

## 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?**
1 June 2025

**Please indicate where this inventory is available**
Website:
http://www.env.go.jp/air/suigin/invertory.html

**Attach**
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## 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 scale criteria for soot and smoke emitting facilities under the Air Pollution Control Act are applied mutatis mutandis to relevant sources under Annex D. It was confirmed from a mercury inventory that almost 100% of the total mercury emissions from relevant sources in Annex D would be covered when applying the draft (at that time) scale criteria for soot and smoke emitting facilities.

## 8.5: Has the party chosen to prepare a national plan setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions from relevant sources and its expected targets, 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

## Part E - Additional comments on this article

- The implementation of Air Pollution Control Act concerning mercury emissions was reviewed five years after its enforcement. As a result, Integrated Coal Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) facilities were designated as a “mercury-emitting facilities”, with their emission standards set at the same level as those for coal-fired power plants. Additionally, emission standards for secondary smelting facilities for copper, lead, or zinc have been reviewed (Effective on October 1, 2025).

- From April 2018, some facilities not listed in Annex D of the Convention (sintering furnaces used for iron making, including pellet sintering furnaces, and electronic furnaces for steel making) are required to take voluntary measures to control mercury emissions. Such measures include the establishment of voluntary emission limit values, measurement of mercury concentration in flue gas and disclosure of measures to reduce mercury emissions.

- The national expert committee evaluated the voluntary efforts made by entities subject to the above measures, such as the status of setting voluntary emission limit values and the method for evaluating and publishing the achievement of such values, and confirmed that appropriate measures were taken overall.

- The National Action Plan under Q8.5 refers to the relevant measures outlined in the “National Implementation Plan for Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury and Mercury Compounds” already submitted to the Secretariat.

▼ 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
- ( ) Do not know (please explain)

## 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)

## Part E - Additional comments on this article

For the inventory of releases, the amount of mercury released to public waters and soil is estimated in the “Mercury Material Flow” that the national government developed in the past. The amount of mercury released to public waters and land is estimated to be 0.28 t and 0.53 t, respectively, in the material flow calculated for FY2019 (April 2019-March 2020).

▼ 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 allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner?

◉ Yes

○ No (please explain)

○ Do not 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.**
□ The Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury requires that, if business operators store mercury or mercury compounds (concentration greater than 95% by weight) intended for sale, manufacture of products, testing and research after the date the Minamata Convention enters into force, they shall store mercury or mercury compounds in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with the "Technical Guidelines for Measures to be Taken to Prevent Environmental Pollution from Stored Mercury or Mercury Compounds". Those measures include storage in containers that prevent scattering or leaking of mercury or mercury compounds, labeling of the chemical form of mercury or mercury compounds on the container, indication of the type of mercury or mercury compounds at the storage site, storage in a place that can be locked (or fenced) and providing proper information when outsourcing the storage.
□ Any business operator storing exceeding 30 kg of mercury in a fiscal year is required to report the purpose of storage and annual balance, including the amount of mercury used for each purpose and the amount that has become waste within the year. As a result, it has been confirmed that almost all business operators that have submitted reports so far have been storing mercury in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with the technical guidelines.

Reference: Summary of the reports on storage of mercury or mercury compounds
Fiscal Year 2020 (April 2020 - March 2021):
https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/tmms/law/teikihoukoku/r02.html
Fiscal Year 2021 (April 2021 - March 2022):
https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/tmms/law/teikihoukoku/r03.html
Fiscal Year 2022 (April 2022 - March 2023):
https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/tmms/law/teikihoukoku/r04.html
Fiscal Year 2023 (April 2023 - March 2024):
https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/tmms/law/teikihoukoku/r05_00001.html

## Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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**
[Wastes consisting of mercury or mercury compounds]
- Specific standards for collection, transport and storage have been established according to the properties of wastes consisting of mercury. Prior to final disposal of such mercury waste at a leachate-control type landfill, sulfurization and solidification are required. The stabilized and solidified mercury must meet the acceptance criteria for landfills (0.005 mg-Hg/L or less). When disposing of them, measures must be taken, for instance, to prevent rainwater infiltration into stabilized and solidified mercury.

[Wastes containing mercury or mercury compounds]
- For industrial wastes containing mercury, additional measures other than those required for other types of industrial wastes have been imposed for the storage, collection, transportation, disposal and reclamation. In addition, the recovery of mercury prior to disposal has been made mandatory for wastes containing liquid mercury that could disperse as a result of equipment damage.

- The Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury promotes efforts to properly collect wastes containing mercury. Specifically, the national government must endeavor to provide technical advice necessary for municipalities to collect municipal wastes containing mercury in an environmentally sound manner. Municipalities must endeavor to take measures necessary for proper collection of wastes containing mercury in their jurisdiction in line with the socioeconomic condition of the region. Business operators who manufacture or import mercury-added products must endeavor to indicate the use of mercury on the product and to provide any additional information that contributes to proper segregation and discharge of such products.
- Based on the above, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan has prepared the guidelines and leaflets for municipalities on segregation and collection of wastes containing mercury, as well as the case study on collection of such wastes undertaken by municipalities.

[Wastes contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds]
- Out of those falling under specially-controlled industrial wastes under Waste Management and Public Cleansing Act, soot and dust, cinders, sludge, slag, waste acid and waste alkali with the concentration of more than 15 ppm of mercury were designated as “dust and others contaminated with mercury”, and additional measures other than those required for other types of industrial wastes have been imposed for treatment, reclamation, etc. This value is consistent with the threshold for wastes contaminated with mercury agreed upon at COP5 to the Minamata Convention. In addition, mercury recovery became obligatory for specially-controlled industrial wastes and soot and others contaminated with mercury if the mercury concentration is 1,000 ppm or more.

☑ 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)

**Please describe measure and effectiveness of measures**
Mercury waste has been recovered, recycled, reclaimed or directly re-used for environmentally sound disposal. The Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury and the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act ensure that recovered mercury can only be used allowed under the Minamata Convention.

☑ Yes - the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is not transported across international boundaries except for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal

**Please describe measure and effectiveness of measures**
Transboundary movement of mercury wastes under the Minamata Convention is properly managed through national laws and regulation to implement the Basel Convention, such as the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Act and the Act on the Control of Export, Import and Others of Specified Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes as well as other relevant acts.

**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.**

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

○ Yes

◉ No

○ Do not know (please explain)

## Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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**
Prior to the Convention entering into force, the Soil Contamination Countermeasures Act obliges landowners, managers or occupiers to conduct soil contamination surveys and report to prefectural governors on the sites of plants and workplaces that have used the specified hazardous substances in the past, and on land that has

risks of causing any harm to human health due to contamination by the specified hazardous substances. The prefectural governor evaluates the contamination status after receiving the report and designates the land whose contamination by the specified hazardous substances does not conform to the standards stipulated in the Act as an “Area which Requires Measures” or an “Area for which Changes to Form or Nature Require Notification”. In an Area which Requires Measures, the prefectural governor indicates to the landowner of the contamination removal measures that should be taken, the reasons therefore and the deadline for taking these measures, and requires the owner to prepare and submit a plan for contamination removal. For an Area for which Changes to Form or Nature Require Notification, it is mandatory to submit a notification to the prefectural governor when a person intends to change the form or nature of that land.

According to the survey on the enforcement of the Soil Contamination Countermeasures Act in FY 2022 (April 2022 to March 2023), the number of areas that did not conform to standards for mercury and mercury compounds and was designated as an Area which Requires Measures or an Area for which Changes to Form or Nature Require Notification was six and 60, respectively, for that fiscal year.

Based on the Water Pollution Prevention Act, prefectural governments are required to continuously monitor the state of water pollution in public waters and groundwater and report the results to the Minister of the Environment. When a well that exceeds the environmental standard for groundwater is found, the water quality of the surrounding wells, etc. is measured to identify and estimate the source and extent of contamination, and if necessary, the prefectural governor can order the person causing the contamination to take measures to remediate the contaminated groundwater.

Since April 1989, the national and local governments have been measuring groundwater quality in accordance with the water quality measurement plan that is prepared annually by prefectural governors. In the continuous monitoring survey, the number of wells exceeding the environmental standard for total mercury has decreased from 19 in FY 2017 to 18 in FY 2023.

## Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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 programmes?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

**Please specify**

Japan has contributed about $1.5 million to the Secretariat from FY2021 to FY2024 for the expenditure to dispatch experts and other uses.

## 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.**

Japan has contributed to GEF from April 2021 to March 2024.

## 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**

Japan has voluntary contributed about $3 million to the project entitled as “Project for promoting the Minamata Convention by making the most of Japan’s knowledge and experiences” implemented by the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific from FY2021 to FY2024. This project especially addresses information

exchange, awareness and education, research development and monitoring to assist UN member states to improve their national mercury-related information and its platform to promote mercury management in relation to the Convention. Additionally, it will establish a region-wide network of analytical institutions with mercury monitoring capabilities around Asia and the Pacific to bring their capacities to international standards.

Japan has provided project formulation support for “Development of Capacity for the Substitution and the Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury-containing Medical Measuring Devices” through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). The first phase of this project was implemented in healthcare facilities in Indonesia and the Philippines from FY2019 to FY2021, which supported the phase-out of mercury-containing medical measuring devices and the development of an inventory and technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of them.

**Please provide comments, if any.**
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## Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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**
At the Diplomatic Conference of the Minamata Convention in October 2013, Japan expressed its intention to support developing countries and promote voices and messages from Minamata, through the project titled “MOYAI Initiative.”
Examples of these activities are as follows.

[Seeds assessment of technologies in Japan for mercury management]
See answer to 14.3

[Strengthening national capacity for ratification and implementation of the Convention]
We conducted a series of training sessions on the Convention's overview, obligations of Parties and benefits of ratification for non-parties (Myanmar in FY2021 and Nepal in FY2022 and FY2024). For Nepal, we also provided technical support for the gold-plating industry, which represents the country’s largest sources of mercury emissions.
Various types of assistance were provided to support the development of Mercury Material Flow (MMF):
- In collaboration with UNEP and UNITAR, we co-hosted multiple online training sessions for nine Asia-Pacific countries, and supported UNEP in developing a training package in FY2021 and FY2022.
- We supported the Philippines and Nepal in developing their national MMF from FY2021 to FY2024. This included providing technical expertise on identifying mercury flows, data collection and estimation methodologies through local workshops and training programmes in Japan.

[Support for chlor-alkali industries using mercury]
From FY2017 to FY2021, technical experts in Japan were dispatched to Brazil and Iran to support mercury management in chlor-alkali industries using mercury. Key activities included the introduction of alternative technologies – specifically the conversion to ion-exchange membrane processers – along with providing technical guidance and project formation support. This assistance also addressed the sound management of excess mercury and mercury waste, as well as the prevention of mercury leakage.

[Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) and illegal trade of mercury]
In FY2017, we invited eight experts from various Indonesian ministries and organizations to Japan for training on ASGM issues. Subsequently, Japanese experts were dispatched to Indonesia until FY2022 to provide technical advice on implementing their National Action Plan (NAP) for ASGM.
In FY2021, Japanese technologies and expertise contributing to addressing ASGM were compiled and introduced in webinars for Indonesia. Furthermore, we have organized information-sharing meetings, gathering experts and practitioners in Japan involved in ASGM to discuss effective modalities for support since FY2024.
We have conducted on-site surveys and feasibility studies in Indonesia to evaluate the applicability of a mercury-free gold extraction technology using algae, developed by Japanese private companies since FY2022.

Following the adoption of the Bali Declaration on addressing illegal mercury trade at COP4, we have organized the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) since FY2022 to discuss the current status, challenges and good practices on combating illegal trade on mercury, as well as addressing the issue of ASGM in Indonesia.

[Support for mercury emission management]
The following mercury emission surveys have been conducted since FY2018:
- Mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants (Vietnam)
- Mercury emissions from coal combustion by stoves (Mongolia)
- Mercury emissions from waste-to-energy facilities (Myanmar)
- Mercury emissions from open-burning of waste (Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Cameroon)
Since FY2019, we have supported Indonesia in conducting mercury content surveys in coal and implementing co-benefit technologies at power plants and other facilities to reduce mercury and other pollutants.
Since FY2022, our support for Vietnam has focused on the establishment of mercury emission standards, improvement of power plants operations and capacity building for monitoring institutions.

[Support for mercury waste management]
For medical waste management projects implemented by UNIDO with GEF funding, Japan has been cooperating with the Philippines on three areas since FY2021: (1) sharing Japan's policies and legal frameworks for mercury management, (2) supporting the establishment of material flows on mercury and mercury waste and (3) capacity building for local waste treatment facilities.

[Capacity building for mercury monitoring in developing countries]
Since FY2015, Japan has supported the enhancement of mercury monitoring capabilities in developing countries. Specifically, manual air mercury sampling toolkits have been distributed to monitoring institutions across 12 developing countries.
In FY2020 and FY2021, we developed demonstration videos to train national technicians on atmospheric mercury monitoring methods (gold amalgamation collection and heated vaporization cold atomic absorption spectroscopy, as described in the “Manual of Measurement Methods of Hazardous Air Pollutants”) and on measuring methylmercury and mercury levels in hair.

[Institutional support and capacity building for Asia Pacific Mercury Monitoring Network (APMMN)]
As part of capacity building on mercury monitoring in developing countries and based on the joint statement by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the MOEJ in August 2015, we conducted initiatives to improve institutional capacity on the network and strengthen relevant activities in the Asia-Pacific region through the dispatch of experts to periodical meetings of the APMMN.
Since 2015, we have conducted training sessions on atmospheric mercury monitoring techniques for government technicians from countries across the Asia-Pacific region, in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Asia-Pacific Mercury Monitoring Network (APMMN). The sessions focused on general atmospheric mercury monitoring techniques and the utilization of monitoring results, aiming to promote the understanding and adoption of manual active sampling methods. They were conducted in-person in FY2018, FY2019, FY2023 and FY2024 and online in FY2020-FY2024.

[Institutional strengthening and capacity building for mercury monitoring networks in African region]
As part of support to strengthen mercury monitoring capabilities in developing countries, we have conducted training sessions on general atmospheric mercury monitoring techniques using the manual active sampling method and on the utilization of monitoring results since 2023, in collaboration with the South African Mercury Network (SAMNet). This aims to build networks in the African region and to deepen understanding of the advantages of this method as an atmospheric mercury monitoring technique, inviting mercury monitoring technicians from the African region to promote its dissemination and implementation.

[Following activities were undertaken by JICA]
- Third-country training program for Latin American countries on mercury pollution and management by Uruguay (FY2017-FY2023)
- SDGs business verification survey with the private sector for the mercury stabilization technology in Indonesia (FY2020 onwards)
- Project for improvement of mercury management in Indonesia (FY2024 onwards)

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

○ Yes

◉ No

**Please specify**
Japan is not in a situation where capacity-building support or technical assistance from other countries are needed for the implementation of the Convention.

**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**

[Seeds assessment of technologies in Japan for mercury management]
We have hosted the annual Information Exchange Platform (IEP) since FY2015, gathering Japanese industries who possess mercury management technologies and wish to contribute to the implementation of the Convention in developing countries.
To promote these technologies overseas, we have prepared information flyers that summarizes the detailed information. As of May 2025, 14 technologies are featured and are publicly available online.
https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/tmms/mtbs.html
We have conducted pilot surveys in Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Myanmar since FY2015, with each project typically spanning three to four years. These surveys aim to identify opportunities for applying the technologies of IEP members to local needs. The surveys in Thailand are currently ongoing.

## Part E - Additional comments on this article

Japan nominated experts for the intersessional expert meetings under the Convention (Annexes A and B, effectiveness evaluation, mercury waste thresholds, and emissions and releases, etc.), thereby actively contributing to the discussions. Furthermore, Japan has taken a lead to update the Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury Waste under Basel Convention, in collaboration with the Small Inter-Sessional Working Group (SIWG).
The Ministry of the Environment, Japan and Professor Misuzu Asari of the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) serve as co-leads of the Waste Management Area (WMA) under the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. The WMA has been undertaking various voluntary activities especially to support capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer to promote the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes particularly in developing countries.

▼ 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.**

Provisional regulation levels for mercury have been set for fish and shellfish distributed for consumption. In addition, the government has issued warnings particularly for pregnant women (fetuses) regarding the types of fish and shellfish that they should be aware of and the amount they can consume. Furthermore, the Children and Families Agency (CFA) has informed local governments that information on mercury in fish and shellfish should be included in the Maternal and Child Health Handbook.

Regarding Minamata Disease patients, compensation such as for consolation and medical expenses has been provided based on the compensation agreement with the responsible company. In addition, a lump-sum payment by the responsible company and medical treatment expenses by the government were provided. The government has also enhanced medical and welfare measures in Minamata Disease-affected areas, including support for the livelihood of fetal Minamata Disease patients, and has taken measures for the regeneration and reconciliation of communities divided by discrimination and prejudice caused by Minamata Disease.

The National Institute for Minamata Disease (NIMD), established in 1978, carries out many studies, research, information collection activities relevant to Minamata Disease and its cause, methylmercury, and made them publicly available. These activities contribute towards the prevention of pollution in Japan and other countries and the well-being of affected communities.
Annual Report published by the NIMD:.
http://nimd.env.go.jp/english/kenkyu/annual_reports.html

## 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.**
Regarding education on the prevention of occupational exposure to mercury and measures to prevent adverse effects to human health, business operators are required to install equipment to prevent exposure, provide their workers with protective equipment and manage the working environment. In addition, to ensure a safe working environment, the Ministerial Ordinance under the Industrial Safety and Health Act requires that indoor workplaces where mercury vapor is emitted be equipped with instruments to seal the emission source and local exhaust ventilation, and that the concentration of mercury in the working environment be measured once every six months. The results shall be evaluated against the working environment standard (0.025 mg/m3 for mercury and its inorganic compounds excluding mercury sulfide). Based on the results, the installation and maintenance of facilities or equipment as well as the health check would be required, as appropriate.

## Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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

**Scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information**
Many pamphlets in English are available on the MOEJ website containing an overview of the Convention, basic information and the situation concerning mercury and Japan's efforts to implement the Convention.

[Overview of the Convention, Japan’s measures to implement the Convention]
https://www.env.go.jp/en/chemi/mercury/mcm.html

[Pamphlets that compile Japan’s efforts to implement the Convention]
- Act on Preventing Environmental Pollution of Mercury: https://www.env.go.jp/content/000227313.pdf
- Minamata Convention on Mercury and Japan’s Mercury Management:
https://www.env.go.jp/content/900414710.pdf
- Utilizing Minamata Resources for Contributing to the Minamata Convention on Mercury:
https://www.env.go.jp/content/900414941.pdf
- Japan’s Commitment on the Minamata Convention on Mercury:
https://www.env.go.jp/content/900415048.pdf
- Lesson from Minamata Disease and Mercury Management in Japan:
https://www.env.go.jp/content/900414989.pdf

☐ 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

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▼ 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 taken 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

☐ 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

**(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**
- Various pamphlets are available on the MOEJ website containing an overview of the Convention, basic information and the situation surrounding mercury, and Japan's efforts to implement the Convention.
- MOEJ used YouTube and radio advertisements to publicize the start of regulations on the manufacture and trade of mercury-added products such as thermometers and lamps.
- Regarding efforts by businesses, for example, the Battery Association of Japan and the Japan Lighting Manufacturers Association provide information on their websites on how to identify mercury-added products.
- In addition to relevant measures based on relevant acts and information provision noted above, other information such as "Data sheets on the Results of the Hazardous Substances in Food Products Survey" and "Precautions for Pregnant Women Concerning Mercury and the Consumption of Fish and Seafood" (published in 2005, revised in 2010) are provided to raise public awareness.
- "The PRTR Information Plaza" associated with the Act on Confirmation, etc. of Release Amounts of Specific Chemical Substances in the Environment and Promotion of Improvements to the Management Thereof, provides data on hazardous chemical substances (including mercury) subject to the PRTR system. In addition, the air emission inventory and mercury material flow are being developed partly with these data. The FY2022 atmospheric emission inventory and FY2019 material flow have been publicly available since June 2025 and April 2024, respectively.

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

## Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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**
MOEJ continues to refine, maintain and update the mercury emission inventory and material flow on an ongoing basis.

☑ Modelling 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

**Modelling 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**
Monitoring activities include: monitoring of hazardous air pollutants based on the Air Pollution Control Act, monitoring of water quality in public water bodies and groundwater based on the Water Pollution Prevention Act and monitoring of the marine environment based on the Basic Act on Ocean Policy.
In addition, background monitoring has been conducted at Cape Hedo in Okinawa Prefecture and the Oga Peninsula in Akita Prefecture, to understand the achievement status of environmental standards. The results are also published. According to the survey for FY2023 (April 2023 to March 2024), the annual average of the total concentration of mercury by form in the air is 1.6 ng-Hg/m3 at Cape Hedo and 1.6 ng-Hg/m3 at Oga Peninsula. These values are well below the guideline value (annual average of 40 ng-Hg/m3), which are for reducing health risks from hazardous air pollutants in the environment.

☑ 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

**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**
A study on the mercury concentration in the blood of 80,000 pregnant women was conducted in the Japan Environment and Children's Study (JECS), which has been implemented by MOEJ since 2011. The results were published in the Environmental Research
(https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0013935122005588?via%3Dihub).

The National Institute for Minamata Disease continues to study and research, collect and organize information, and provide research results and information comprehensively on Minamata Disease and its cause, methylmercury
http://nimd.env.go.jp/english/kenkyu/annual_reports .html.

☐ 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 historic deposition

**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 historic deposition**
Japan conducts the following activities: research on the global dynamics of mercury by both observation and modeling, tests on the long-term stability of stabilized and solidified wastes consisting of mercury, and demonstration tests on the emission of mercury from landfill where stabilized and solidified wastes consisting of mercury is disposed of.

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

**Information on commerce and trade in mercury and mercury compounds and mercury-added products**
As part of national initiatives, the government developed "The plan for identifying the current distribution of mercury-added products in Japan (Ver. 1.0)" and have conducted surveys on the distribution of batteries, lamps and cosmetics from FY2018 to 2022.

☐ 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

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

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

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

## Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any

{Empty}

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