

2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 10 March 2026

*Question 8.2 amended by the Republic of Korea on 24 March 2026



REPORTING PERIOD:

1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

Republic of Korea

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

22 November 2019

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

20 February 2020

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Title 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

a3_subsection

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▼ 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

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

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

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

(Q 3.1.) In 1976, a mercury mining was registered in Ulsan. But, as it failed to be developed, its registration was cancelled in 1983.

(Q 3.2.) After the date of entry into force of the Convention for Korea in May 2020, any new mercury mining is operated within the territory.

(Q 3.3. A) The Korean government investigated the individual stocks of mercury and mercury compounds, and the result shows that there is no individual stocks exceeding 50 metric tons per year.

(Q 3.3. B) The Korean government investigated the individual stocks of mercury and mercury compounds, and the result shows that there is no individual stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year.

(Q 3.4.) There is no chlor-alkali facility using mercury in Korea.

(Q 3.5.) There is no export of mercury from Korea during the reported period.

(Q 3.6.) Import response of mercury under the Minamata Convention

: On 2 July 2021, 30 KG of mercury from Japan for manufacturing industrial high pressure lamps used in display and semiconductor processes.

: On 21 June 2022, 30 kg of mercury from Japan for manufacturing industrial high pressure lamps used in display and semiconductor processes.

▼ 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.

Measures taken by Korea to deal with mercury-added products are as follows:

For mercury-added products under Article 4(1) of the Convention, the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (MCEE) prohibits their manufacture, import and export after the phase-out dates listed to the Convention by specifying them in Appendix 2 of the Regulation on Types of Persistent Pollutants and Specific Exemptions therefor. In addition, the following laws and regulations governed by other ministries and government agencies regulate each product types specifically.

1. Batteries, except for button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content <2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content <2%

: Under the Electrical Appliances and Consumer Products Safety Control Act operated by the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS), mercury level equal to or less than 1mg/kg for cylindrical and button primary battery (i.e. manganese-alkali battery, manganese battery).

* Primary battery means single-use battery that is not rechargeable.

2. Switches and relays, except very high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20mg per bridge, switch or relay

: Under the Act on Resource Circulation of Electrical and Electronic equipment and Vehicles governed by MCEE, mercury level less than 0.1% by weight of same substance, for electrical and electronic equipment, and parts of vehicles.

* "same substance" means that is not separated in a physical way.

3. Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are ≤30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5mg per lamp burner

: Under the Industrial Standardization Act operated by KATS, Korea's Industrial Standard (KS) is updated equal to the Convention and, under the Electrical Appliances and Consumer Products Safety Control Act operated by KATS, Korean Safety Certification (KC) for electrical appliances limits mercury level in ballast stabilizer-embedded lamp (i.e. fluorescent lamp).

4. Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes:

a. Triband phosphor <60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5mg per lamp;

b. Halophosphate phosphor ≤40 watts with a mercury content exceeding 10mg per lamp.

: Under the Industrial Standardization Act operated by KATS, Korea's Industrial Standard (KS) is updated equal to the Convention and, under the Electrical Appliances and Consumer Products Safety Control Act operated by KATS, Korean Safety Certification (KC) for electrical appliances limits mercury level in fluorescent lamp.

5. High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMV) for general lighting purposes

: Under the Industrial Standardization Act operated by KATS, Korea's Industrial Standard (KS) is updated equal to the Convention and, under the Electrical Appliances and Consumer Products Safety Control Act operated by KATS, Korean Safety Certification (KC) for electrical appliances prohibits indoor high pressure mercury lamps.

6. Mercury in cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays:

(a) short length (≤500mm) with mercury content exceeding 3.5mg per lamp.

(b) medium length (>500mm and ≤1500mm) with mercury content exceeding 5mg per lamp

(c) long length (>1500mm) with mercury content exceeding 13mg per lamp

: Under the Act on Resource Circulation of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Vehicles governed by MCEE, Korea updated relevant standards equal to the Convention for fluorescent lamps of electrical and electronic equipment and vehicles.

* In case of vehicles that were issued or changed their first specification management number before 1 July 2012, their following components and parts to repair them are excluded from the above regulations: discharge lamps for head light, and fluorescent lamps for dashboard display.

7. Cosmetics (with mercury content above 1ppm), including skin lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe

substitute preservatives are available

: Under the Cosmetics Act governed by the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS), mercury was designated and publicly announced as a raw material that cannot be used for cosmetics in accordance with the Regulation on Cosmetics Safety Standards.

8. Pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics

: Under the Consumer Chemical Products and Biocides Safety Control Act governed by MCEE, daily-use consumer chemical products subject to safety verification includes mercury and mercury compounds as component that their used is prohibited under the Persistent Pollutants Control Act.

: Under the Public Notice subordinated to the Pesticide Control Act operated by the Rural Development Administration (RDA), registration of pesticides is restricted if it contains mercury compounds, including inorganic mercury compounds, alkyl mercury compounds, alkyloxyalkyl and alkyloxyaryl mercury compounds.

* As of now, there is no pesticides containing mercury in Korea, and Korea restricts registration of mercury-containing pesticides since 28 June 2013.

9. The following non-electronic measuring devices except non-electronic measuring devices installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available:

- (a) barometers;
- (b) hygrometers;
- (c) manometers;
- (d) thermometers;
- (e) sphygmomanometers.

: Under the Medical Devices Act operated by MFDS, Korea prohibits to manufacture, import, export and sell mercury-containing medical devices such as thermometers and sphygmomanometers since January 2015.

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.

Korea completed three measures.

Annex A, Part II

1) Korea sets up a national goal, targeting cavity prevention and promoting good health.

* In 2026, the 2nd National Oral Health Plan sets up its key objective of prevention-focused oral health management and treatment capacity-building.

2) Korea minimizes the use of dental amalgam.

Korea omitted "mercury in bulk" from the national medical device standards to reduce mercury use for dental restoration by adopting the MFDS Public Notice on Standards for Medical Devices in August 2016.

8) Korea allows the use of dental amalgam only when it is an encapsulated form by adopting the MFDS Public Notice on Standards for Medical Devices in April 2020.

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.

Annex A, Part II

(i) To minimize the use of dental amalgam, Korea omitted "mercury in bulk" from the national medical device standards by adopting the MFDS Public Notice on Standards for Medical Devices in August 2016. This regulation is still in effect.

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.

Korea took measures in November 2020 in accordance with Article 9 of the Enforcement Decree of Act on Resource Circulation of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Vehicles, which ensure that mercury level in electrical and electronic equipment and vehicles shall be equal to or lower than 0.1% by weight of same substance.

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.

There is no case in Korea that manufacture or distribution of mercury-added products not covered by any known use is suspended.

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.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

(Q 5.1.) (Q 5.2.) (Q 5.3.)(Q 5.4.) There is no facility using mercury or mercury compounds in Korea.
(Q 5.5.) There is no action taken.

▼ 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

(Q 7.1.) There is no gold mining using mercury in Korea.
(Q 7.2.) There is no case that needs a notification to the Secretariat.

▼ 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 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

The Clean Air Conservation Act groups mercury compounds-emitting facilities into five categories, and regulates them to comply with permissible emission levels of each category. Since 1 January 2020, the permissible emission levels are tightened.

The above five categories are as follows: Hg, mg/Sm³

1) Waste water, wastes and waste gas incinerators, animal cremation facility (including incineration boiler) and solid fuel-using facilities: ≤ 0.05 (12) of permissible emission level

2) Power plant (solid fuel-using plant only): ≤ 0.04 (6)

3) Roasting furnace, sintering furnace, blast furnace (including blast reflection furnace), melting furnace, electric furnace and drying furnace out of primary-metal-manufacturing facilities: ≤ 0.04 (15)

4) Cement kiln out of facilities where manufacturing cement, lime, plaster and products thereof: ≤ 0.05 (13)

5) Others: ≤ 0.1

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

Korea designated mercury and mercury compounds as "Certain Hazardous Air Pollutants" and developed permissible emission levels to control their emission.

Progress

Mercury emission from power plants decreased gradually from 474kg/y in 2020 to 102kg/y in 2022

▼ 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

Korea designated mercury and mercury compounds as "Certain Hazardous Air Pollutants" and developed permissible emission levels to control their emission.

Progress

Mercury emission from boiler increased until 2021 but plunged next year, from 1,676kg/y in 2020 to 15kg/y in 2022

▼ 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

Korea designated mercury and mercury compounds as "Certain Hazardous Air Pollutants" and developed permissible emission levels to control their emission.

Progress

Mercury emission from primary metal manufacturing facilities decreased continuously from 149kg/y in 2020 to 15kg/y in 2022.

▼ 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

Korea designated mercury and mercury compounds as "Certain Hazardous Air Pollutants" and developed permissible emission levels to control their emission.

Progress

Mercury emission from waste incinerators decreased consistently from 504kg/y in 2020 to 44kg/y in 2022.

▼ 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

Korea designated mercury and mercury compounds as "Certain Hazardous Air Pollutants" and developed permissible emission levels to control their emission.

Progress

Mercury emission from cement kiln facilities was not identified until 2021, but was confirmed after 2022, marking 25kg/y in 2022.

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?

26 September 2023

Please indicate where this inventory is available

Korea has an emission inventory of mercury and mercury compounds, including PRTR and pollutants emission and transfer information, which is available to the public.

It was updated in 2023.

Please visit the following website to find it: <https://icis.mcee.go.kr/prtr/main.do>

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.

Korea developed permissible emissions levels of mercury and mercury compounds by taking into account the source categories of the Convention and establishing criteria to identify relevant sources.

Korea's PRTR inventory sets out source categorization criteria, including the source category of the Convention, according to the Korean Standard Industrial Classification (KSIC).

Mercury emission to air (based on PRTR and point source categories in Annex D) : total 146kg in 2023.

– Coal-fired power plants (KSIC Code No. 35113 Thermal power) : 0kg

– Coal-fired industrial boiler (KSIC Code No. 35300 Vapour, cold and hot water, and air controlling): 0kg

– Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals such as lead, zinc, copper and industrial gold (KSIC Code No. 242 Primary non-ferrous metals manufacturing): 146kg

– Waste incinerator (KSIC Code No. 382 Wastes disposal): 0kg

– Cement clinker production facilities (KSIC Code No. 23311 Cement manufacturing): 0kg

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

Part E – Additional comments on this article

(Q 8.2.) Korea designated mercury and mercury compounds as "Certain Hazardous Air Pollutant", developed permissible emission levels, and is regulating them based on such levels.

(Q 8.5.) Korea regulates emissions of mercury and mercury-compounds through various instruments such as reporting and permission of mercury-emitting facilities, permissible emission levels, the industry's obligation of self-measurement, under the Clean Air Conservation Act. Therefore, it is not necessary to develop a separate national plan to control them.

▼ 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

(Q 9.2.) In 2023, PRTR on mercury and mercury compounds showed that there was no source to water and soil.

▼ 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.

Under the Regulation on Specific Handling Standards by Hazardous Chemical Substance operated by the National Institute of Chemical Safety (NICS), Korea has the storage standards to prevent leakage to the environment and exposure of workers.

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

Matters related to environmentally sound disposal of mercury wastes are clearly identified in the Wastes Control Act, which came into effect in July 2021.

- ☐ 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.

Matters related to environmentally sound disposal of mercury wastes are clearly identified in the Wastes Control Act, which came into effect in July 2021.

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

(Q 11.2.) In case of wastes consisting of mercury or mercury compounds, Korea ensures that such wastes shall be kept in mercury-specific container permanently pursuant to MCEE Public Notice on Standards for Mercury-specific Container and Appendix 5(3) of the Enforcement Rule of the Chemical Substances Control Act.

▼ 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

Korea operates a national soil environment measurement network and carries out surveys on soil contamination.

* The results showed that there was no case exceeding soil contamination thresholds from 2021 to 2024.

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

Korea establishes a basis for implementing the Convention and secures financial resources therefor, in accordance with the 4th Basic Plan for Persistent Pollutants Management.

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.

Korea provides its contributions to the general trust fund of the Minamata Convention every year.

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

Korea secures financial resources to establish and operate legally-binding instruments to implement the Convention, which is used generally for national mercury monitoring, public awareness, and participation into the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, etc. There is no specific financial resources to assist developing parties or parties with economies in transition to implement the Convention.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

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

Korea secures financial resources to establish and operate legally-binding instruments to implement the Convention, which is used generally for national mercury monitoring, public awareness, and participation into the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, etc. There is no specific financial resources to assist developing parties or parties with economies in transition to implement the Convention.

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

Korea has not received capacity-building or technical assistance from other Parties.

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 provide information

Korea carried out researches to suggest BAT and BEP management to calculate and reduce mercury released from mercury wastes.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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.

Regarding Article 16 (1)(a), to reduce exposure to heavy metals, including mercury, the Korean government carries out a research on possible measures that can be performed by the government, the industry and consumers from 2024 to 2026, and will develop a guideline based on the results by 2027.

In addition, Korea is monitoring mercury exposure levels in human body such as blood serum and urine, and publish the results every three years.

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.

Korea developed mercury-handling standards and recommendations for mercury-handling in workplace, which requires business operators install equipment to prevent mercury exposure, and workers wear personal protective equipment (PPE).

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

☐ 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

(Q 17.1.) Korea makes the survey results on release and emission of mercury and mercury compounds available to the public.

▼ 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

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

Part E – Additional comments on this article

MCEE is monitoring mercury in human body and the environment by performing the Korean National Environmental Health Survey, and operating national integrated mercury measurement network, air quality measurement network, water quality measurement network, soil measurement network, etc. Korea makes the information on mercury levels in human and the environment available to the public through the following websites:

- Korean National Environmental Health Survey at the National Statistics website (<https://kosis.kr>)
- Chemical Substance Information System (<https://ncis.nier.go.kr>)
- Air Korea (<http://www.airkorea.or.kr>)
- Water Environment Information System (<http://water.nier.go.kr>)
- Soil and Underground Water Information System (<http://sgis.nier.go.kr>)

▼ 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

MCEE established PRTR system for mercury emissions.

☒ 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

Korea has the national integrated mercury measurement network, air environment measurement network, water environment measurement network, soil measurement network and marine environment measurement network. From 2021 to 2024, MCEE conducted a monitoring program on mercury levels of major lakes, rivers, sea, fish, representative sites of air and soil, representative fish species, biota, sediment, etc.

☒ 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

MFDS performed surveys on mercury and methyl mercury contamination in food, and conducted risk assessments as a part of the project "Re-assessment of Standards for Heavy Metals in Food" in 2024.

☐ 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

MCEE carried out a study to establish mercury stable isotope-based library to know fate and sources of mercury through the air from 2022 to 2023.

☒ 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

MCEE conducts a statistical survey on manufacture, import and export of mercury through the Chemical Substances Statistical Survey.

☐ 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

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