



**República Argentina - Poder Ejecutivo Nacional**  
2019 - Año de la Exportación

**Informe**

**Número:**

**Referencia:** Liberaciones - Convenio de Minamata sobre el mercurio

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**Releases**

The Conference of the Parties, in its **Draft decision MC-2/3: Releases**, decides to establish a group of technical experts on mercury releases to water and land. The mandate of the group is to develop a list of potentially relevant point source categories not addressed in other provision of the Convention than article 9. Draft guidance for the preparation of inventories will be developed for those sources. In addition, the COP requests the secretariat to invite parties, signatories and other stakeholders to identify possible point source categories of releases to be included in the list referred.

With regard of article 9 of the Convention, paragraph 2(b) defines a *relevant source* as “[...] any significant anthropogenic point source of release as identified by a Party that is not addressed in other provision of this Convention”. In this regard, it has been noticed that the *point source* is not clearly defined in the Convention and may be the group of experts should consider it for further discussions.

**Sources identification**

Within the framework of the Minamata Convention, on February 2018, the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA, PNUD ARG/18/G25) began to be executed through the Environmental Monitoring and Control Secretariat of the National Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development. The purpose of this program was to evaluate the situation of mercury management in Argentina in order to identify national challenges and the measures to be taken in terms of regulation, policy and environmental strategy that will allow the country to comply with the provisions of the Convention.

The main product of the implementation of the Minamata Initial Assessment Project was the Country Profile, which includes the "National Inventory of Mercury Releases in Argentina" taking as baseline year 2016. The sources that emit and/or release mercury to the environment were identified and quantified using the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of mercury releases provided by UNEP.

During the implementation of the Project several meetings were carried out with different areas of the government (such as Mining, Health and Production) with the view to compile information related to the sources in the Toolkit. Also relevant companies were contacted.

The National Inventory quantifies 38 sources of emission and/or release of mercury that are present in Argentina. This assessment includes both point and diffuse sources, of which 13 were analyzed with Level

2 and 25 with Level 1 according to the availability of information. The information that comes off the Inventory is shown in the Final Report of the MIA Project, which was consulted with all the government areas and stakeholders involved.

Under the UNEP Toolkit methodology, the sources that present mayor releases to land and water identified in our country are:

Point source of release to water [1]	Releases to water in kilograms	Level of analysis	Source of information	Observations
Waste water system/treatment	12.909	Level 2	- Monitoring results - Inputs from experts of “PROBARROS Program” from the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainability Development (SAyDS)	
Use and disposal of dental amalgam fillings	3.698	Level 1	- Number of inhabitants and number of dentist	Mentioned in other part of the Minamata Convention
Extraction and processing of natural gas	884	Level 1	- National Energy Balance (2016)	
Informal dumping of general waste	625	Level 1	- World Bank information - CEAMSE	To be discussed according to the scope of a point source.
Other laboratory and medical equipment with mercury	559	Level 1	- Number of inhabitants	

Point source of release to land	Releases to land in kilograms	Level of analysis	Source of information	Observations
Informal dumping of general waste	5.000	Level 1	- World Bank information - CEAMSE	
Use and disposal of electrical switches and relays with mercury	2.372	Level 1	- Number of inhabitants	Mentioned in other part of the Minamata Convention
Use and disposal of dental amalgam fillings	672	Level 1	- Number of inhabitants and number of dentist	Mentioned in other part of the Minamata Convention
			- National Ministry of	

Cemeteries	550	Level 1	Health	
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In regard of the selection of the relevant sources, it must be noted that to establish a threshold (for example kilograms of mercury released to water) to determine the relevance of the source could be convenient. Sources that release 550 kilograms of mercury or more have been selected for the elaboration of this report. In addition, another criteria could be established to determine whether a source is relevant or not for the country.

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[1] Since the *point source* is not clearly defined in the Convention, the scope of the information provided in this table will be discussed in the group of experts.