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The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the honor to transmit an overview of the waste management regulations and programs related to mercury waste in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury the assurances of its highest consideration.



Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

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Overview of Waste Management Regulations and Programs Related to Mercury Wastes in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia MINAMATA Convention

In Saudi Arabia, the waste management sector is fully regulated by MWAN (the National Center for Waste Management) created via Council of Ministers Decision 457 (April 17, 2019). MWAN mandate covers activities related to all waste streams across the value chain (not including radioactive and military wastes).

On August 11, 2021, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia adopted a new and advanced "Waste Management Law" (M/3) that mandated the regulator to classify all wastes based on its hazard properties and its impacts on public health and the environment, and to establish the required terms and conditions for this classification. On May 19, 2022, a detailed set of "Implementing Regulations (IR)" of the Law were adopted and published. The new regulations provided detailed standards and requirements on the classification of wastes (primarily Chapter IV - Section III - Waste Classification). Articles 49 to 64 of the IR provided clear mechanisms for identifying and classifying hazardous wastes based on 1) source 2) hazardous properties and 3) physical status. Classification of any waste as hazardous is determined based on its hazardous properties (HP) detailed in Appendix 1 of the IR or based on the classification of this waste as hazardous within international agreements to which the Kingdom is a signatory. Hazard Properties of wastes as detailed in Appendix 1 include:

- Explosive
- Oxidizing
- Flammable
- Irritant
- STOT (Specific Target Organ Toxicity)
- Acute Toxicity
- Carcinogen
- Corrosive
- Contagious
- Damage to Fertility
- Genetic Defects
- Acute Hazardous Gases
- Aquatic Toxicity

In addition, Appendix II of the IR lists and classifies all categories of wastes listed in Annex I of Basel convention as hazardous (Y1 to Y18). Appendix II of the IR lists wastes having specific hazardous constituents as per Annex I of the Basel Convention (Y19 – Y45) as hazardous. Finally, Appendix IV of the IR lists thresholds for Persistent Organic Pollutants constituents in wastes to be considered hazardous. **Mercury and mercury compounds are listed as hazardous in Appendix III of the IR under Y29 in line with Annex I of Basel.**

In addition, the Implementing Regulation, a set of Technical Guidelines that address management of various wastes and activities including wastes containing mercury have been developed and are expected to be published very soon. Those include management, treatment and recovery of various hazardous wastes.



From the planning side, the KSA has embarked on a major Master planning project for the entire country (one of its kind globally in terms of scope of size). This project is planning the management and implementation phase of all wastes including special wastes across the Kingdom over the next 15 years. Management of various wastes including mercury containing wastes have been thoroughly identified and planned as part of this master plan including Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Industrial, Batteries, End of Life Vehicles, healthcare wastes, etc. as part of this exercise, a comprehensive technology assessment was conducted, and best suitable technologies were selected to recover, treat and dispose of this waste.

This Master Plan was developed based on a clear National Strategy that adopted a clear visions and ambitions including a set of 11 strategic objectives and 19 KPIs to be achieved by 2030, 2035 and 2040. KPIs related to the management of potential mercury containing wastes include:

KPI	2030	2035	2040
Percent Reduction of Industrial Waste (IW) per 1 million manufacturing GDP	9%	16%	25%
Reduction of ELVs generated pr capita	2%	3%	5%
% of source segregated Industrial waste	57%	81%	95%
% of source segregated WEEE	60%	85%	100%
% of source segregated ELVs	60%	85%	100%
% diversion rate from landfills for IW	18%	40%	89%
% diversion rate from landfills for WEEE	18%	41%	90%
% diversion rate from landfills for ELVs	19%	42%	93%
% of IW prepared for recycling	14%	32%	72%
% of WEEE prepared for recycling	18%	41%	90%
% of ELVs prepared for recycling	16%	37%	82%
% of hazardous waste treated or disposed of as per official guidelines	90%	95%	100%
% of WEEE treated or disposed of as per official guidelines	60%	85%	100%