



Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic
Pavel Labounek
Deputy Minister

Prague, May 11, 2006
Ref.: 20992/ENV/06

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following the letter sent by Mr. Maged Younes, Head of UNEP Chemical Branch, DTIE on 15 March 2006, regarding the progress in the implementation of the GC decision 23/9 IV on Mercury programme, let me send you in the enclosure information for the report summarizing supply, trade and demand for mercury about the progress in the Czech Republic.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a horizontal line that curves downwards at the end.

Mercury Programme
UNEP Chemicals)11-13, Chemin des Anemones
Geneva

Information for the Report on Compliance with Decision 23/9 IV Mercury Programme UNEP Chemicals

Information is submitted by Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, Department of Environmental risks, Mrs. Marta Cerna (e-mail: marta_cerna@env.cz).

1. Supply of Mercury

- Mercury is not exploited in the Czech Republic neither as a natural resource nor by-product of the mining activity.
- Refining of natural gas is a part of waste management. Inventory of production and waste management of wastes containing Hg is set and carried out according to Czech Act No. 185/2001 Coll., on Waste and its amendments, as amended, and according to Decree No. 381/2001 Coll., on Catalogue of Wastes, as amended. Each Catalogue number summarises wastes of different technologies and wastes from different producers of waste. Production of wastes in 2002 and 2003 is shown in Tab. 1. Data are collected and evaluated by the Ministry of the Environment – the Information Waste Management System (ISOH).

Tab. 1 Production of wastes containing mercury in 2002 and 2003

Catalogue number	Type of waste	2002 (t)	2003 (t)
05 07 01*	Wastes from natural gas purification and transportation - wastes containing mercury	0.11	0.21
06 04 04*	Metal-containing wastes other than those mentioned in 06 03/wastes from the MFSU/manufacture, formulation, supply and use/of salts and their solutions and metallic oxides/ - wastes containing mercury	94.89	256.01
16 01 08*	End-of-life vehicles from different means of transport (including off-road machinery) and wastes from dismantling of end-of-life vehicles and vehicle maintenance - components containing mercury	3.36	0.57
16 06 03*	Batteries and accumulators - batteries containing mercury	25.65	34.17
17 09 01*	Other construction and demolition wastes - construction and demolition wastes containing mercury	116.42	185.78
18 01 10*	Wastes from natal care, diagnosis, treatment or prevention of disease in humans – amalgam waste from dental care	1.1	0.36
20 01 21*	Separately collected fractions - fluorescent tubes and other mercury-containing waste	908.3	676.28

Source of data: ISOH

The way of waste management (disposal, recovery, storage) is peculiar to describe precisely. The need to carry out the waste management economically results that the wastes containing mercury are stored till the specific amount of wastes in stock is reached. Tab. 2 shows the most common way of management of specific wastes containing mercury.

Tab. 2 The way of waste management of wastes containing mercury

Catalogue number	Waste management way
05 07 01* - wastes containing mercury	Wastes are stored
06 04 04* - wastes containing mercury	Wastes are partially stored, partially recycled and in part land filled
16 01 08*- components containing mercury	Wastes are recycled (98 %), the rest is stored
16 06 03*- batteries containing mercury	Both batteries containing mercury and mercury free are collected and categorized under this code. The waste is then sorted and Hg cont. batteries are recycled in CR (5 – 10 % batteries with Hg) the remainder is exported.
17 09 01* - construction and demolition wastes containing mercury	75 % wastes are recycled and cca 25 % are stabilized and land filled
18 01 10* - amalgam waste from dental care	100 % wastes are recycled.

Source of data: ISOH

- Mercury is mainly recovered from dental amalgam sources. The regularly registered mercury in amount of more than 10 t/year is summarized in the Table No. 3.

Tab. 3 The amount of mercury produced and placing on the market in period 2001 - 2005

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
[t]	[t]	[t]	[t]	[t]
17.0	19.4	14.1	17.0	15.0

Source of data: Ministry of the Environment

- There are no government reserve stocks or inventories in the Czech Republic.
- No other stocks or sources of mercury such as closed or converted chlor-alkali factories.

There are national systems collecting and periodically publishing data on mercury supply from 2000, in compliance with the Act No. 157/1998 Coll., on chemical substances and chemical preparations, dealing the placing on the market in the amount more than 10 t/year.

New act fully harmonized with legislation of the European Communities (Act No. 434/2005 Coll., amending Act No. 356/2003 Coll., on chemical substances and chemical preparations) was adopted in the Czech Republic. The data on production, import and placing on the market in the amount more than 10 t/year (see Tab No. 1), are published annually in the database on the web of the Ministry of the Environment (www.env.cz), but there are no systems on collecting complete data on mercury supply in CR.

2. Trade in Mercury

We have no reason to believe that the data reported to Comrade or other statistical agencies about mercury movements are incomplete or inaccurate.

Wastes

In 2001 - 2004 there were only few exports for recovery – recycling of amalgam waste from dental care (see Tab. 2).

a) IMPORT: there was no import of Hg wastes in period 2001 - 2004,

b) EXPORT:

- In 2001, 65 kg of wastes 18 01 10* were exported to Austria
- No export was in 2002
- In 2003, 165 kg of wastes 18 01 10* were exported to Austria
- No export was in 2004
- In 2005, based on the contract Hg-containing batteries have been exported for recycling to Austria. (Accumulated about 45 t zinc-chloride batteries Zn-Cl; zinc-carbon Zn-C and alkali-manganese Alk-Mn both Hg-containing batteries and batteries Hg-free).

3. Demand for Mercury

- Preliminary evaluation of the returnable system in 2004 provided the following data:

Total amount of batteries collected in the CR 196.58 t
Total amount of batteries collected by ECOBAT 128.44 t (65 %)

Composition of taking-back system

Hg- and Ag-containing batteries,
Zn-Cl, Zn-C and Alk-Mn batteries (may contain Hg),
Pb-containing batteries/accumulators,
Ni-Cd accumulators,
Ni-MH batteries or accumulators.

Hg- and Ag-containing batteries are recycled and batteries that may contain Hg are exported to Austria.

90 % of batteries placed on the market in the CR are Zn-Cl and Alk-Mn types with concentration of mercury less than 250 ppm.

Concentration of mercury in Zn/HgO batteries is 10 – 15 %. Their production reached the top between 60' s 80's', nowadays they are gradually replaced by new ones.

- Production of fluorescent, high intensity discharge containing mercury was decommissioned in 2001. Now, 0.01 t of mercury is stocked.
- Dental mercury is approximately 16 t/year usage. Total consumption of mercury in thermometers and other measure medical or technical devices production is about 2.8 t, including approximately 305 kg mercury/year in medical thermometers in hospitals.

- There is about 350 t of mercury in chlor-alkali facilities altogether in two factories still producing chloral. The plan to convert facilities is according to EUROCHLORE agreement till 2020. There is disposal of old contaminated sites in both plants by mercury - the total estimated mercury amount lies roughly in the range 500 t.
- No data are available.

4. Artisanal and small scale gold mining

There are no such activities in the CR.