



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS APLINKOS MINISTERIJA
THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

A. Jakšto St 4/9, LT-01105 Vilnius, tel.: (+370 5) 266 36 61, fax: (+370 5) 266 36 63, e-mail: info@am.lt URL: http://www.am.lt

Lead and cadmium review
UNEP Chemicals
11-13, Chemin de Anemones
CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

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INFORMATION OF MERCURY

This answer is written in regard to the your's letter dated 15 March 2006 about the submission of information of mercury (Hg) in a country and this information is placed bellow.

MERCURY IN the REPUBLIC of LITHUANIA (LT)

Emissions in Lithuania by general sectors of mercury pollution:

Coal combustion - power plants above 50 MWth - non-existent in LT. This is the biggest source of mercury emissions in the EU.

Cement production - 1 manufacturer "Akmenes cementas", the largest cement company in the Baltic region and the only company in Lithuania (emissions of Hg to air - 0,03 t, 2003).

Iron and steel industry - non-existent in LT.

Non-ferrous metals industry - non-existent in LT.

The integrated pollution prevention and control permission for industries is therefore a key tool to reduce emissions of mercury and other pollutants from the sectors that mentioned above.

Coal combustion - power plants below 50 MWth and residential heat - the biggest source of mercury emissions in Lithuania (emission of Hg to air - 0,23 t, 2003).

Supply

Lithuania is not an exporter of mercury, except the mercury waste.

Demand

Chlor-alkali industry - non-existent in LT. The biggest user of mercury in the EU.

Dental amalgam - still in use, but it is very decreased, because of using a substitution.

Products containing mercury - measuring and control equipment (thermometers, blood pressure gauges and barometers), lighting (fluorescent lamps (CFLs)), electrical and switching equipment (electronic switches and relays), batteries are products which normally are circulating in the society.

Just supply in the market of batteries containing mercury is limited by the national legislation (HN 36:2002).

Once product becomes "waste" it suppose to be managed in environmentally sound way. Waste of electric and switching equipment, lighting, batteries and dental amalgam are carried out by the 14-07-1999 order of the minister of environment No. 217 "Rules for the management of waste".

But there were founded some problems in the sector of mercury waste management. In Lithuania there are existing 4 registered waste management companies which could collect, transport and store and 2 companies which recycle and export, fluorescent lamps and other waste containing

mercury.

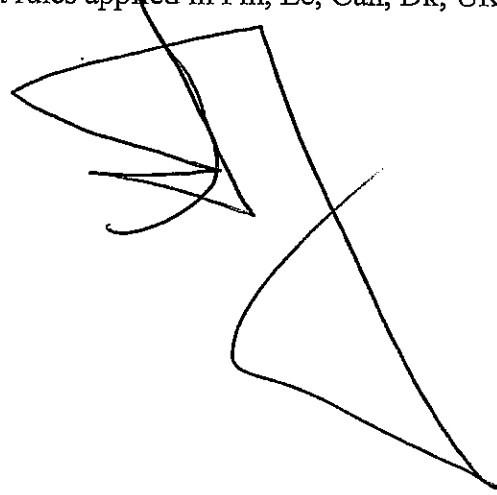
Mercury in ambient

Air- emissions of mercury to air by sectors in Lithuania in 2000 was 0,25 t, what is 0,1% of mercury emissions in mentioned year in the EU.

Water- in 1995-2003 concentration of Hg in water sources decreased from 0,035 to 0,02 µg/l, when in other EU countries decreasing is also founded from 1,8 to 0,1 µg/l, but values is much higher then in LT.

Soil - background concentrations of mercury in soil of Lithuania in 1997 is 100 times less then the highest allowable concentration (HN 60:2004) and the mean values of the mercury in soil of the cities are almost the same as the highest allowable concentration for the protected and environmentally sensitive areas by the strictest rules applied in Fin, Be, Can, Dk, UK, De and Nl.

Aleksandras Spruogis
Undersecretary of the ministry



V. Sabulis, (+370 5) 2662707, e-mail: v.sabulis@am.lt