



June 6, 2006

Mercury Programme  
UNEP Chemicals  
11-13, Chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 Châtelaine,  
Geneva, Switzerland

**RE : Governing Council Decision 23/9 IV on mercury programme – report summarizing supply, trade and demand information for mercury**

In response to the letter of March 15, 2006, from the Head, Chemicals Branch, we are pleased to provide the following information. The information provided is presented according to the categories of the above mentioned letter. In addition, we are currently engaged in gathering more information and hope to be able to provide additional, more detailed information for many of these categories at a later date.

Country submitting information: Canada

Contact person: Grace Howland, Manager, Heavy Metals  
Environment Canada  
351, St. Joseph Blvd, 11<sup>th</sup> floor  
Gatineau, Quebec, K1A 0H3  
(819) 956-9754  
Grace.Howland@ec.gc.ca

1. SUPPLY OF MERCURY (countries are asked to please provide national data for the following)

i. Production of primary mercury

Canada has not produced mercury metal since 1975.

While primary mercury metal is no longer produced in Canada, some mercury containing compounds and trace amounts of elemental mercury can be recovered during the smelting and refining of other metals. These recovered materials are exported to the United States. Preliminary estimates for 2004 of Canadian exports of this recovered mercury were 2.3 tonnes (Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Minerals Yearbook 2004). Please see other editions of the Yearbook for data from earlier years.



- ii. Recovered mercury from refining of natural gas  
No data have been reported by consumers for the 1995-2005 time period.
- iii. Mercury recovered from spent products, catalysts and wastes from industrial production processes (excluding chlor-alkali wastes)  
No data have been reported by consumers for the 1995-2005 time period.
- iv. Mercury in government reserve stocks or inventories  
No data have been reported by consumers for the 1995-2005 time period.
- v. Other stocks or sources of mercury (from closed or converted chlor-alkali factories)  
Either no data have been reported, or data have been classed as confidential, by consumers for the 1995-2005 time period.
- vi. Are there national systems in place to collect and periodically publish data such as those above on mercury supply, and if so, how complete are the data?  
There is a system in place to collect statistics for some of the above categories. Frequently the data are identified as being confidential and are not reported by consumers.

## 2. TRADE IN MERCURY

### i. Trade Statistics

As stated in your letter, comprehensive trade statistics for mercury are available through the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (Comtrade). We have no reason to believe that the data reported for Canada may be incomplete or inaccurate. For mercury and other minerals and metals, data are also summarized in commodity reviews published annually as part of the Canadian Minerals Yearbook, available at [www.nrcan.gc.ca/mms/cmy/pref\\_e.htm](http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/mms/cmy/pref_e.htm)

The Table below, extracted from Statistics Canada documents, provides additional data on import [tonnes] of mercury oxides into Canada from 1995-2005.

1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
0.24	0.26	0.45	0.47	1.28	0.43	0.44	0.71	0.27	0.12	0.03



### 3. DEMAND FOR MERCURY

Mercury demand statistics generated by reports from industry consumers in the batteries, fluorescent and other lamps, chlor-alkali plants, catalysts and “other” products industries resulted in the Table below [units : tonnes]. Note that due to the confidentiality of the data, there is no more detailed breakdown available. The categories do not include dental amalgam.

1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
3.0	6.3	2.4	2.8	2.5	2.3	5.6	2.1	4.9	2.0	-

- i. Production of mercury containing batteries – annual domestic production and use and export.

Canadians buy over 150 million consumer batteries each year. Well over 90% of these are single use (primary) batteries.

Preliminary estimates for 2004 are that there were 400 kg of mercury in batteries sold or used in Canada (questionnaire response to UNECE).

- ii. Fluorescent, high-intensity discharge and other lamps containing mercury – annual domestic production (total quantify and amounts of mercury used in production) domestic consumption, export and import.

In its October 19, 2004 update on mercury reduction, one manufacturer reported that the average mercury content of all mercury-containing lamps sold in 2003 was 11.4 mg per lamp. (Canada Wide Standards, A progress report, June 2005).

Preliminary estimates for 2004 are that there were 800 kg of mercury in fluorescent lamps sold or used in Canada (questionnaire response to UNECE).

- iii. Any other mercury containing products (dental, thermometers, paints, cosmetics) (total quantify of and amounts of mercury used in production) domestic consumption, export and import.

A 2003 Government of Canada national survey to assess the use and fate of dental amalgam in Canada estimated that, for the year 2003, 5352 kg of mercury was used in the preparation of amalgam restorations. Amalgam containing 2314 kg of mercury was placed as finished restorations in teeth and 3038 kg of mercury was left over as either contact amalgam scrap (amalgam that has come into contact with the oral cavity) or non-contact scrap (no contact with the oral cavity). Results indicated that dentists



removed amalgam restorations containing approximately 2472 kg of mercury. (Canada Wide Standards, A progress report, June 2005)

Preliminary estimates for 2004 are that there were 5400 kg of mercury in dental amalgam sold or used in Canada (questionnaire response to UNECE).

- iv. Mercury based chlor-alkali facilities – annual mercury demand, number of facilities, total production capacity (chlorine and caustic soda), any plans during the next five years to close facilities or convert them to a mercury-free process.

Canada has one remaining mercury-cell chlor-alkali plant for use in the pulp and paper industry. There are no plans at this time to convert to a mercury-free process or close the facility.

#### 4. ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING (ASM)

- i. Do artisanal and small-scale gold mining activities using mercury occur in your country?

Canada does not have artisanal or small-scale gold mining activities using mercury to recover precious metals.

If there are any questions on the above, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

*Cheryl Heathwood  
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Cheryl Heathwood  
Chief, Hazardous Air Pollutants  
Clean Air Directorate  
Environment Canada  
Telephone 819 953 7157  
Cheryl.Heathwood@ec.gc.ca