

## General Information on the Draft Amendment to the “Restrictions on the Importing of Mercury-Added Products”

The “Restrictions on the Importing of Mercury-Added Products” (hereinafter referred to as the “Announcement”) have not been amended since they took effect on August 25, 2020. In addition to the mercury-added products that are already prohibited, this amendment to the Announcement prohibits the import of mercury-added products and electronic measuring instruments so as to strengthen domestic mercury management, and align with the *United Nations Minamata Convention on Mercury*. The key points of the amendment are as follows:

- I. The newly added mercury-added products that are prohibited from being imported include self-ballasted fluorescent lamps of 30 watts or lower used for general lighting; cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps for electronic displays; strain gauges used in plethysmographs; mercury vacuum pumps; tire balancers and wheel balance weights; photographic film and photographic paper; propellants for satellites, spacecraft, or space vehicles; and electrical and electronic measuring instruments, such as melt pressure transducers, transmitters, and sensors. (see Paragraph 1 of the Amended Announcement)
- II. The import of compact fluorescent lamps for general lighting, as well as linear and non-linear fluorescent lamps, will be prohibited starting from January 1, 2027. (see Paragraph 2 of the Amended Announcement)
- III. The import of linear and non-linear fluorescent lamps for general lighting that use tri-band phosphors will be prohibited starting from January 1, 2028. (see Paragraph 3 of the Amended Announcement)
- IV. The import of mercury-added products for specific purposes is allowed according to Annex A of the *United Nations Minamata Convention on Mercury*. (see Paragraph 4 of the Amended Announcement)

## Comparison Table of the Draft Amendment to the “Restrictions on the Importing of Mercury-Added Products”

Amended Announcement	Announcement Currently in Force	Explanation
Subject: <u>Amendment</u> to the “Restrictions on the Importing of Mercury-Added Products” takes effect on May 1, 2026.	Subject: Restriction on the Importing of Mercury-Added Products takes effect on January 1, 2021.	Announcement and effective date of the amendment to the Restrictions.
Legal basis: Article 21 of the <i>Waste Disposal Act</i> .	Legal basis: Article 21 of the <i>Waste Disposal Act</i> .	The basis was not amended.
<p>Announcement:</p> <p>I. The imports of the following mercury-added products are prohibited:</p> <p>(I) Switches and relays.</p> <p>(II) High-pressure mercury lamps for general lighting.</p> <p>(III) <u>Self-ballasted fluorescent lamps of 30 watts or lower for general lighting.</u></p> <p>(IV) <u>Cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps for electronic displays.</u></p> <p>(V) <u>Strain gauges used in plethysmographs.</u></p> <p>(VI) <u>Mercury vacuum pumps.</u></p> <p>(VII) <u>Tire balancers and wheel balance weights.</u></p> <p>(VIII) <u>Photographic film and photographic paper.</u></p>	<p>Announcement:</p> <p>I. The imports of the following mercury-added products are prohibited:</p> <p>(I) Switches and relays, <u>except very high accuracy capacitance and loss measuring bridges and high-frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20 mg per bridge, switch or relay.</u></p> <p>(II) High-pressure mercury lamps for general lighting.</p> <p>(III) Non-electronic measuring instruments, such as barometers, hygrometers, pressure gauges, thermometers (including body thermometers), and sphygmomanometers,</p>	<p>/</p> <p>In addition to the mercury-added products that are already prohibited, Subparagraphs 3 to 10 were added to prohibit the imports of a total of eight categories of mercury-added products and three electronic measuring instruments starting from May 1, 2026 according to the prohibited mercury-added products and implementation dates listed in Article 4, Subparagraph 1 and Annex A of the <i>United Nations Minamata Convention on Mercury</i>.</p> <p>II</p> <p>The manufacturing of very high accuracy capacitance and loss measuring bridges, high-frequency radio frequency switches, and relays in monitoring and control instruments, with a maximum mercury</p>

<p>(IX) <u>Propellant for satellites, spacecraft, or space vehicles.</u></p> <p>(X) <u>Electrical and electronic measuring instruments, such as melt pressure transducers, transmitters, and sensors.</u></p> <p>(XI) Non-electronic measuring instruments, such as barometers, hygrometers, pressure gauges, thermometers (including body thermometers), and sphygmomanometers.</p>	<p><u>excluding those installed in large equipment or used for high-precision measurements.</u></p>	<p>content of 20 mg per bridge, switch, or relay, was deleted in accordance with the stipulation that “mercury” may be used for purposes specified in Table 3 of Paragraph 3 in the Guidelines on Regulated Toxic Chemical Substances and the Management of Their Handling. The proviso in Subparagraph 1 was thus deleted.</p> <p>III Subparagraph 3 was moved to Subparagraph 11, and the proviso in Subparagraph 3 was deleted in accordance with the stipulation on use of “mercury” in non-electronic measuring instruments in Table 3 of Paragraph 3 of the Guidelines on Regulated Toxic Chemical Substances and the Management of Their Handling. The control method was changed to allow its use under certain conditions in Paragraph 4 of the Announcement.</p>
<p>II. The imports of the following mercury-added products are prohibited starting from January 1, 2027:</p> <p>(I) Compact fluorescent lamps for general lighting.</p> <p>(II) Linear and non-linear fluorescent lamps for general lighting that use</p>		<p>I <u>This paragraph is newly added.</u></p> <p>II Mercury-added products that will be prohibited from being imported starting from 2027 were newly added, for the same reason as in Explanation 1 for Paragraph 1 of the Announcement.</p>

halophosphate phosphors.		
<p>III. The import of linear and non-linear fluorescent lamps for general lighting that use tri-band phosphors will be prohibited starting from January 1, 2028.</p>		<p>I <u>This paragraph is newly added.</u>  II Mercury-added products that will be prohibited from being imported starting from 2028 were newly added, for the same reason as in Explanation 1 for Paragraph 1 of the Announcement.</p>
<p>IV. For the mercury-added products prohibited from being imported in the preceding <u>three</u> paragraphs, if one of the following conditions is met, they may be imported after supporting documents have been submitted for review and approved by the central competent authority:</p> <p>(I) Products necessary for civilian protection <u>and</u> military purposes.</p> <p>(II) Products for research, <u>experiments, education, calibration of instrumentation, or use as a reference standard.</u></p> <p>(III) Where no feasible mercury-free alternative for replacement is available <u>for the following products:</u>  <u>1. Very high accuracy capacitance and loss measuring bridges, high-frequency radio frequency</u></p>	<p>II. The mercury-added products prohibited from being imported in the preceding paragraph, if one of the following situations is met, may be imported with approval by the central competent authority after supporting documents have been submitted for review:</p> <p>(I) Products necessary for civilian protection and military purposes.</p> <p>(II) Products for research, calibration of instrumentation, or use as a reference standard.</p> <p>(III) Where no feasible mercury-free alternative for replacement is available for the <u>products</u> in Subparagraphs 1 and 3 of the preceding paragraph.</p>	<p>I The paragraph number was changed.  II The amendment adds Paragraph 2 and Paragraph 3 of the Announcement into the scope of applicability.  III The text of Subparagraph 1 was amended.  IV Experiments and education were added to the purposes listed in Subparagraph 2 in accordance with the stipulation that “mercury” may be used for purposes specified in Table 3 of Paragraph 3 of the Guidelines on Regulated Toxic Chemical Substances and the Management of Their Handling.  V In accordance with the stipulation that “mercury” may be used for purposes specified in Table 3 of Paragraph 3 of the Guidelines on Regulated Toxic Chemical Substances and the Management of Their Handling, as well as Annex A of the <i>United Nations Minamata Convention on Mercury</i>, specific mercury-</p>

<p><u>switches, and relays in monitoring and control instruments.</u></p> <p>2.<u>Cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps for electronic displays.</u></p> <p>3.<u>Electrical and electronic measuring devices or non-electronic measuring devices installed in large-scale equipment, or those used for high precision measurement.</u></p>		<p>added products may be imported under certain conditions where no feasible mercury-free alternative for replacement is available, by submitting supporting documents to and receiving approval from the central competent authority. Subparagraph 3 was thus amended and the purposes were listed.</p>
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