LightingEurope encourages governments to:

- introduce harmonised mercury limits for lamps as enabling technology is widely available
- adopt the “Basic level” option (Minamata Convention) sooner than demanded
- consider adopting the “Advanced level” option by having higher environmental ambition

Globally Harmonised Mercury Limits for Lighting

For more information please contact us and consult our position paper.

www.lightingeurope.org
Minamata Convention: “Basic level” option

The scope of the Minamata Convention covers the most popular lamps used in households, offices, electronic displays and for street lighting; setting maximum mercury content limits for several fluorescent lamp types. Specially or niche market lamps are not further regulated. The limits on mercury reflect the feasible levels available world-wide for more than a decade.

Mercury-added Light Sources*

Lamps to be phased out which exceed the indicated mercury limits:

1. Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner.
2. Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes:
   - (a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp;
   - (b) Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 watts with a mercury content exceeding 10 mg per lamp.
3. High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMV) for general lighting purposes.
4. Mercury in cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays:
   - (a) short length (≤ 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp;
   - (b) medium length (> 500 mm and ≤ 1500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp;
   - (c) long length (> 1 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 13 mg per lamp.

*The following products are excluded from the scope:
(a) Products essential for civil protection and military uses;
(b) Products for research, calibration of instrumentation, for use as reference standard;
(c) Where no feasible mercury-free alternative for replacement is available, cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays, and measuring devices.

LightingEurope proposal: “Advanced level” option

The “Advanced level” option includes more lamp types, and is setting lower mercury limits, compared to the “Basic level”. Its scope covers those lamp types which contain the majority of the total mercury amount used in lighting. It excludes, however, most of the specialty or niche market lamps. The limits reflect currently world-wide available precise mercury dosing technology. Governments can set specific exemptions or limits for regional products as justified by the local market requirements.

Mercury-added Light Sources*

Lamps to be phased out which exceed the indicated mercury limits:

1. Single capped compact fluorescent lamps (integrated and non-integrated control gear) for general lighting purposes:
   - (a) that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 2.5 mg per lamp;
   - (b) that are ≤ 30 watts with long lifetime (> 15 khrs) with a mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp;
   - (c) that are ≥ 30 Watt and < 150 Watt with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp;
   - (d) that are with circular or square structural shape or other non-linear with tube diameter ≤ 17 mm with a mercury content exceeding 7 mg per lamp.
2. Double-capped linear fluorescent lamps <= 1800 mm for general lighting purposes:
   - (a) tri band phosphor with normal lifetime and a tube diameter < 9 mm (e.g. T2) with a mercury content exceeding 4 mg per lamp;
   - (b) tri band phosphor with normal lifetime and tube diameter >= 9 mm and <= 17 mm (e.g. T5) with a mercury content exceeding 3 mg per lamp;
   - (c) tri band phosphor with normal lifetime with a tube diameter > 17 mm and < 38 mm (e.g. T8, T10) with a mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp;
   - (d) tri band phosphor with long lifetime > 25 khrs or tri band phosphor with a tube diameter ≥ 38 mm (e.g. T12) with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp;
   - (e) halophosphate with a mercury content exceeding 10 mg per lamp.
3. Other low pressure discharge lamps <= 1800 mm for general lighting not mentioned above and all low-pressure discharge lamps <= 1800 mm for special purpose with a mercury content exceeding 15 mg per lamp.
4. High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMV) for general lighting purpose.
5. Mercury in cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays:
   - (a) short length (≤ 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp;
   - (b) medium length (> 500 mm and ≤ 1500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp;
   - (c) long length (> 1 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 13 mg per lamp.

*The following products are excluded from the scope:
(a) Products essential for civil protection and military uses;
(b) Products for research, calibration of instrumentation, for use as reference standard;
(c) Where no feasible mercury-free alternative for replacement is available, cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays, and measuring devices;
(d) Products for medical devices, monitoring and control instruments.