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Do you import or manufacture products containing mercury?

If yes, or you are unsure – new federal Regulations may apply to you!

The *Products Containing Mercury Regulations* reduce the risks to the environment and human health from mercury found in manufactured products, including measuring devices, such as thermometers and thermostats, lamps, switches, and batteries.

These Regulations **prohibit** the **import** and **manufacture** of products containing mercury and its compounds. Exemptions exist under certain conditions, including total mercury content.

For most products exempted from this prohibition, **labelling, reporting** and **record keeping** requirements may still apply.

Consult the Regulations for product-specific requirements.

What products may contain mercury or its compounds?

Examples include:

- ✓ Lamps and light bulbs
- ✓ Dental amalgam
- ✓ Switches for appliances
- ✓ Barometers and hydrometers
- ✓ Thermostats and thermometers
- ✓ Neon signs
- ✓ Button cell batteries
- ✓ Tire balancers

What are the main requirements of the Regulations?

While the Regulations prohibit the import and manufacture of mercury-containing products in Canada, there are exemptions that allow the import and manufacture of a small number of mercury-containing products, under certain conditions, such as:

- Products listed in the Schedule of the Regulations; or
- Permits approved by the Minister.

Some specific mercury content limits expire following a specified date, after which no mercury will be allowed in these products.

The Regulations will **come into force on November 8, 2015**. After this date, regulatory requirements are in force.

Already regulated by a federal government department or agency?

Many mercury-containing products are already subject to other federal regulatory controls. The Regulations **do not apply** to such products as the risks they pose are already being managed by another federal department or agency.

These products include, but are not limited to: waste; material intended to be recycled; food, drugs and cosmetics under the *Food and Drugs Act*; surface coating materials under the *Surface Coating Materials Regulations* and *Toys Regulations*; pest control products under the *Pest Control Products Act*; feed and fertilizers under the *Feeds Act* and the *Fertilizers Act*; and ammunition and explosives under the control of the Minister of National Defense or the *Explosives Act*. Refer to Section 2.0 of the Regulations for the full list.



Some examples* of exempted products and their respective mercury content limit (where applicable).

*Non-exhaustive list – Refer to the Schedule of the Regulations for a complete list.

Product	Mercury content limit and exemption expiry date (if applicable)
Dental amalgam	No limits
Compact fluorescent lamp ≤ 25 watts	4 mg per lamp
T8 4-foot straight fluorescent lamp with normal lifetime	4 mg per lamp
Cold cathode tubing for signage (e.g. neon signs) or cove lighting	100 mg per 2.44 m
Button cell batteries	25 mg per battery until Dec. 31, 2015
Thermometers used in research applications	No limits
Replacement parts [†] (e.g. mercury flame sensors that are found in water heaters already in use)	No limits

[†]A part that is required for a product to continue to function and for which there is no mercury-free alternative or product listed in the Regulations that could serve as a direct substitute.

What labelling requirements apply to mercury-containing products?

As of **November 8, 2015**, mercury-containing products allowed by the Regulations will be required to have the following statement in a readily visible location on the product and/or the package:

Contains mercury/Contient du mercure

Other required labelling information include: safe handling procedures and the measures to be taken in case of accidental breakage and options available for disposal and recycling. Refer to Section 8 of the Regulations for more information.

In addition, many specified products must display the symbol “Hg”, including items such as fluorescent lamps and cold cathode tubing.

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What reporting requirements apply to mercury-containing products that can be manufactured or imported under the regulations?

Manufacturers and importers of mercury-containing products will be required to report on their activities (import, manufacture) and provide product information (quantities, mercury content, etc.). A first report for the year 2016 will be required by **March 31, 2017**. Subsequent reports will be required **every three years**.

For more information on the *Products Containing Mercury Regulations* consult the website www.ec.gc.ca/mercury or contact us by email at products.produits@ec.gc.ca.

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