

FIRST FULL NATIONAL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY 2021



REPORTING PERIOD:

16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

Liechtenstein

Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited

1 February 2017

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

16 August 2017

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Office of Environment

Title of National Focal Point

Ms.

Name of National Focal Point

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3. Information about the contact officer submitting the reporting format if different from the above

Focal Point is submitting the national report

- ☒ Information is submitted by the national focal point
- ☐ Information is submitted through the national focal point by the contact officer

▼ ART. 3: MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE

3.1. Does the party have any primary mercury mines that were operating within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Additional information on this question if needed

{Empty}

3.2. Does the party have any primary mercury mines that are now in operation that were not in operation at the time of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

3.3. Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

ba34_subsection

*If the party answered Yes to Question 3 above:

i. Please attach the results of your endeavor or indicate where it is available on the internet, unless unchanged from a previous reporting round.

Since the last reporting it was controlled that no new trades, production or downstream user dealing with mercury or mercury compounds are present in the country. Therefore, stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 10 metric tons per year are not present in Liechtenstein.

i. Please attach the results of your endeavor or indicate where it is available on the internet, unless unchanged from a previous reporting round.

{Empty}

ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information, for example on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks and sources.

{Empty}

3.4. Does the party have excess mercury available from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities?

☐ Yes

☒ No

3.5. *Has the party received consent, or relied on a general notification of consent, in accordance with article 3, including any required certification from importing non-parties, for all exports of mercury from the party's territory in the reporting period?

☐ Yes, exports to parties

☐ Yes, exports to non-parties

☒ No

Additional information if needed

{Empty}

3.6. Has the party allowed the import of mercury from a non-party?

☒ No

☐ Yes

☐ The importing party has relied on paragraph 7 of article 3

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

▼ ART. 4: MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS

4.1. Has the party taken any appropriate measures to not allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A of the Convention after the phase-out date specified for those products?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Yes (implementing paragraph 2 of article 4)

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

The EU Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on Mercury has been incorporated into the EEA Agreement (<https://www.efta.int/eea-lex/32017R0852>) and it is in force in Liechtenstein, as well as the EU Directive 2011/65/EU (RoHS) and EU Directive 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators apply in Liechtenstein.

Furthermore due to the Customs Union Treaty between Switzerland and Liechtenstein the Swiss regulations concerning mercury apply also in Liechtenstein, no custom controls between Liechtenstein and Switzerland are carried out and the Liechtenstein borders are controlled by the Swiss custom authorities.

In Switzerland and Liechtenstein (Customs Union Treaty) restrictions on the use of mercury in products and processes have been in place for over 30 years. In 2005, the chemicals legislation was completely revised and the regulations on mercury were transferred to the Chemical Risk Reduction Ordinance (ORRChem, SR 814.81). The last amendments to the regulations on mercury were made in 2015 and 2017. The most recent amendment in 2017 introduced restrictions and control measures for the import and export of mercury and mercury compounds. These adjustments were necessary to meet the requirements of the Minamata Convention (see Mercury supply sources and trade). In addition to the rules on transboundary trade in mercury and mercury compounds, bans apply to the manufacture and placing on the market, including import, of mercury-added products which are listed in Part I of Annex A to the Convention.

Batteries:

Batteries, including those installed in electrical and electronic appliances, may not be placed on the market if they contain more than 5 mg of mercury (Annex 2.15 ORRChem).

Switches and relays:

Switches and relays, including those installed in electrical and electronic appliances, may not be placed on the market if they contain more than 0.1% of mercury within a homogeneous material (Annex 1.7 and Annex 2.18 ORRChem).

Discharge lamps:

Discharge lamps are electrical and electronic equipment. Examples include fluorescent lamps (tubular and non-tubular), compact fluorescent lamps (with pin or screw base) and high-pressure discharge lamps (sodium-vapour lamps, mercury vapour lamps and metal-halide lamps).

It is prohibited to place on the market electrical and electronic equipment that contains more than 0.1% of mercury within a homogeneous material (Annex 2.18 ORRChem). The prohibition does not apply to discharge lamps (individually or as part of other electrical and electronic equipment) which do not exceed the maximum mercury concentrations specified in the Directive 2011/65/EU.

Cosmetic products:

Cosmetic products may not be placed on the market if they contain mercury compounds (Annex 1.7 ORRChem).

Plant protection products, biocides, and topical antiseptic products:

Placing on the market of plant protection products, biocides, and topical antiseptic products containing mercury is prohibited (Annex 1.7 ORRChem).

Measuring Devices:

Placing on the market of clinical thermometers and other measurement instruments that contain mercury and are intended for use by the general public is prohibited (Annex 1.7 ORRChem).

Placing on the market of the following measurement instruments that contain mercury and are intended for professional or commercial use, is prohibited (Annex 1.7 ORRChem):

- Barometers,
- Manometers,
- Sphygmomanometers,
- Strain gauges for use in plethysmographs,
- Thermometers and other non-electrical thermometric applications,

- Hygrometers,
- Tensiometers,
- Pyknometers, and
- Instruments for the determination of the softening point.

The use of mercury (CAS RN 7439–97–6), mercury compounds and preparations containing mercury for the manufacture of products mentioned above is prohibited (Annex 1.7 ORRChem). In addition the export of measuring instruments, switches and relays is prohibited unless their placing on the market is permitted.

Link to the ORRChem:

<https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2005/478/en>

4.3. Has the party taken two or more measures for the mercury-added products listed in Part II of Annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

The dental amalgam is regulated in the Swiss ORRChem ordinance (Annex 1.7 ORRChem). This ordinance applies in Liechtenstein based on the Customs Union Treaty. According to ORRChem the use of dental amalgam is prohibited. An exemption from the general prohibition is granted if priority cannot be given to a different filling material for medical reasons. Furthermore, the dental amalgam can be sold only in encapsulated form.

In Liechtenstein there are preventive programs in kindergartens and primary schools related to dental hygiene, including dental checks. In a joint effort between parents, dentists and the country, the state of Liechtenstein encourages families to let their children be examined annually from the 4th birthday onwards by a dentist and – if necessary – treated. This is to ensure that any damage to the teeth can be repaired at an early stage and that sensible prophylactic measures can be discussed with the parents. The state usually covers 40% of the costs incurred according to the children's and young people's dental care tariff. The period of coverage lasts until the 18th birthday.

4.4. Has the party taken measures to prevent the incorporation into assembled products of mercury-added products whose manufacture, import and export are not allowed under article 4?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

According to the Swiss ORRChem ordinance it is prohibited to manufacture and to place on the market articles containing mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A. This ordinance applies in Liechtenstein based on the Customs Union Treaty.

Furthermore, it was controlled from the reporting party that companies in Liechtenstein that might have used products listed in part I of annex A as components of consumer, commercial and industrial products do not incorporate mercury-added products.

4.5. Has the party discouraged the manufacture and the distribution in commerce of mercury-added products not covered by any known use in accordance with article 4, paragraph 6?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

According to the Swiss ORRChem ordinance the placing on the market of mercury-added products for use unknown before the date 1. January 2018 is prohibited. This ordinance applies in Liechtenstein based on the Customs Union Treaty.

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 5: MANUFACTURING PROCESSES IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED

5.1. Are there facilities within the territory of the party that use mercury or mercury compounds for the processes listed in Annex B of the Minamata Convention in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 5 of the Convention?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ I do not know

5.2. Are measures in place to not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes listed in Part I of Annex B after the phase-out date specified in that Annex for the individual process?

CHLOR-ALKALI PRODUCTION

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

ACETALDEHYDE PRODUCTION IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED AS A CATALYST

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

5.3. Are measures in place to restrict the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in Part II of Annex B in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER PRODUCTION

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

5.4. Is there any use of mercury or mercury compounds in a facility using the manufacturing processes listed in Annex B that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

5.5. Is there any facility that has been developed using any other manufacturing process in which mercury or mercury compounds are intentionally used that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

According to the Swiss ORRChem ordinance the use of mercury (CAS 7439-97-6), mercury compounds and mercury-containing preparations as auxiliary substances in industrial manufacturing processes is prohibited. This ordinance applies to Liechtenstein based on the Customs Union Treaty.

▼ ART. 7: ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING

7.1. Have steps been taken to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 within your territory?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ There is no artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 in which mercury amalgamation is used in the territory

7.2. Has the party determined and notified the secretariat that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is more than insignificant?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

▼ ART. 8: EMISSIONS

8.1. Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are new sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (c) of article 8.

For each of those source categories describe the measures in place, including the effectiveness of such measures, to implement the requirements of paragraph 4 of article 8.

- ☐ Coal-fired power plants
- ☐ Coal-fired industrial boilers
- ☐ Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals
- ☐ Waste incineration facilities
- ☐ Cement clinker production facilities

Has the party required the use of best available techniques or best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) to control and where feasible reduce emissions for new sources no later than 5 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Please explain

The party has no new sources in any of the source categories listed in annex D.

Attach relevant documentation

{Empty}

8.2. Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are existing sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (e) of article 8.

For each of those source categories, select and provide details on the measures implemented under paragraph 5 of article 8 and explain the progress that these applied measures have achieved in reducing emissions over time in your territory:

▼ COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

{Empty}

Progress

{Empty}

▼ COAL-FIRED INDUSTRIAL BOILERS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

{Empty}

Progress

{Empty}

▼ SMELTING AND ROASTING PROCESSES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF NON-FERROUS METALS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

{Empty}

Progress

{Empty}

▼ WASTE INCINERATION FACILITIES

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

{Empty}

Progress

{Empty}

▼ CEMENT CLINKER PRODUCTION FACILITIES

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

{Empty}

Have the measures for existing sources under paragraph 5 of article 8 been implemented no later than 10 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please explain

The party has no existing sources in any of the source categories listed in annex D.

8.3. Has the party prepared an inventory of emissions from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the Convention for it?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Have not been a party for 5 years

If no such inventory exists, please explain

Considering that Liechtenstein does not have existing or new sources in any of the source categories listed in annex D, there is no need for an inventory from these specific “relevant sources”. For further information please refer to Part E.

8.4. Has the party chosen to establish criteria to identify relevant sources covered within a source category?

☐ Yes

☒ No

8.5. Has the party chosen to prepare a national plan setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions from relevant sources and its expected targets, goals and outcomes?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

Liechtenstein reports on yearly basis the emissions (including of mercury) to the Geneva Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP). The last report was carried out in 2021. Liechtenstein emits about 286 g of mercury into the air per year, coming mainly from wood firing. The reports and emissions can be viewed following the link: <https://www.ceip.at/>. The mercury emissions reports for Liechtenstein are available at the following link: https://public.tableau.com/shared/RNPZMGB8D?:display_count=y&origin=viz_share_link&:embed=y

9.1. Are there, within the party's territory, relevant sources of releases as defined in paragraph 2 (b) of article 9?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I do not know

9.2. Has the party established an inventory of releases from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the convention for it?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ Relevant sources do not exist in the territory
- ☐ Have not been a party for 5 years
- ☐ No

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

▼ ART. 10: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND INTERIM STORAGE OF MERCURY, OTHER THAN WASTE MERCURY

10.1. Has the party taken measures to ensure that the interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not know

Please indicate the measures taken to ensure that such interim storage is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner and the effectiveness of those measures.

Facilities that store more than 200 Kg mercury are subject to the provisions set in the national Regulation on Protection against Major Accidents (only available in German: Major Accidents Ordinance, StFV, LR 522.1, Link: <https://www.gesetze.li/konso/pdf/2016296000?version=1>).

The reporting party investigated industrial facilities where non-waste mercury might be stored. Based on these investigations, for the time being there is only one company that stores non-waste mercury (the amount is 75 Kg) and the storage of mercury is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner.

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

▼ ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES

11.1. Have measures outlined in article 11, paragraph 3, been implemented for the party's mercury waste?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please describe the measures implemented pursuant to paragraph 3, and please also describe the effectiveness of those measures.

Because of the Customs Union Treaty between Switzerland and Liechtenstein the Swiss regulations concerning waste apply and are enforced also in Liechtenstein. Provisions of waste legislation, in particular the Waste Management Ordinance (ADWO, SR 814.600), the Waste Movements Ordinance (OMW, SR 814.620) and the DETEC Ordinance concerning Lists for the Movements of Waste (LVA, SR 814.610.1) guarantee that mercury waste is handled in an environmentally-friendly manner. Furthermore, Liechtenstein is a party member of the Basel Convention and obliged to the environmentally sound management of the wastes provisions outlined under this Convention.

11.2. Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party's territory?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ I do not know

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

▼ ART. 12: CONTAMINATED SITES

12.1. Has the party endeavoured to develop strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds in its territory?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please elaborate

The strategy for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds is outlined in the nation law on the Contaminated Sites (only available in German: Altlasten-Verordnung, LR 814.011.2, Link: https://www.gesetze.li/konso/2008369000?search_text=Altlv&search_loc=abk_list&lrrn=&lgblid_von=&observe_date=25.11.2021).

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 13: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISM

13.1. Has the party undertaken to provide, within its capabilities, resources in respect of those national activities that are intended to implement the Convention in accordance with its national policies, priorities, plans and programmes?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please specify

The implementation of the convention is covered by the daily activities of the chemical authorities.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

13.2. Supplemental: Has the party, within its capabilities, contributed to the mechanism referred to in paragraph 5 of article 13?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

Liechtenstein has not contributed between 2017 and the end of 2020 to the mechanism referred to in paragraph 5 of article 13.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

13.3. Supplemental: Has the party provided financial resources to assist developing-country parties and/or parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention through other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

Liechtenstein has not provided between 2017 and the end of 2020 financial resources to assist developing-country parties and/or parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention through other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

▼ ART. 14: CAPACITY-BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

14.1. Has the party cooperated to provide capacity-building or technical assistance, pursuant to article 14, to another party to the Convention?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

Liechtenstein has not cooperated between 2017 and the end of 2020 to provide capacity-building or technical assistance, pursuant to article 14, to another party to the Convention.

14.2. Supplemental: Has the party received capacity-building or technical assistance pursuant to article 14?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

The reporting party has not received capacity-building from another state pursuant to article 14. However, Liechtenstein can rely on the assistance of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, when needed.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

14.3. Has the party promoted and facilitated the development, transfer and diffusion of and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Other

Please specify

Liechtenstein has not promoted between 2017 and the end of 2020 projects addressing the development, transfer and diffusion of and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound of alternative technologies to the use of mercury.

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

▼ ART. 16: HEALTH ASPECTS

16.1. Have measures been taken to provide information to the public on exposure to mercury in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 16?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.

Generally, the public in Liechtenstein is aware of the danger represented by the exposure to mercury through see food consumption, dental amalgam fillings and contact with broken products containing mercury.

Further information is available to the public at the website of the Office of Environment (link: <https://www.llv.li/inhalt/11865/amtstellen/ausgewahlte-chemikalien>).

16.2. Have any other measures been taken to protect human health in accordance with article 16?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 17: INFORMATION EXCHANGE

17.1. Has the party facilitated the exchange of information referred to in article 17, paragraph 1?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please provide more information, if any

{Empty}

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

▼ ART. 18: PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

18.1. Have measures been taken to promote and facilitate the provision to the public of the kinds of information listed in article 18, paragraph 1?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please indicate the measures that have been taken and the effectiveness of those measures
We provide the public with information on the website of the Office of Environment (link:
<https://www.llv.li/inhalt/11865/amtstellen/ausgewahlte-chemikalien>).

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

▼ ART. 19: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING

19.1. Has the party undertaken any research, development and monitoring in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 19?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please describe these actions

Liechtenstein monitors use, consumption, and anthropogenic emissions of mercury and investigates possible commerce and trade of mercury in the country.

Liechtenstein reports on yearly basis the emissions (including of mercury) to the Geneva Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP).

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

▼ COMMENTS

Part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention (Art. 21, para. 1)

{Empty}

▼ SUPPLEMENTAL – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Supplemental: Part D: Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any

{Empty}