

**MODEL LETTER OF PARTY NOTIFICATION THAT ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD
MINING AND PROCESSING IS MORE THAN INSIGNIFICANT
SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY**
Version July 2021

Overview of the related provisions under Article 7 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

- (1) The measures in Article 7 and its associated Annex C apply to artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing in which mercury amalgamation is used to extract gold from ore (Article 7, paragraph 1).
- (2) Each Party that has artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory, independently of its importance, has the general obligations to take steps to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in such mining and processing, as well as the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from such activities (paragraph 2).
- (3) Further, a Party that at any time determines that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing in its territory is more than insignificant, shall notify the Secretariat (paragraph 3). Any such Party shall also develop and implement a national action plan in accordance with Annex C (paragraph 3(a)); submit its national action plan to the Secretariat no later than three years after entry into force of the Convention for it or three years after the notification to the Secretariat, whichever is later (paragraph 3(b)); and thereafter, provide a review every three years of the progress made in meeting its obligations under this Article and include such reviews in its reports submitted pursuant to Article 21 (paragraph 3(c)).
- (4) The process to determine “more than insignificant” with respect to artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing is not prescribed in the Convention. Each Party may use its own criteria in determining whether such activities are more than insignificant within its territory.
- (5) Notifications are posted on the Convention website.

Use of the model letter for notification to the Secretariat of a determination of “more than insignificant”

- (6) The model letter presented on page 2 may be used as a guiding tool; it is not intended to interpret nor to substitute for the original authentic texts of the Minamata Convention. A Party may choose to use this model letter to transmit the relevant information for notification to the Secretariat.

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[Government letterhead]

The Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
UN Environment Programme
International Environment House 1
Chemin des Anémones 11-13
Geneva, Switzerland

E-mail: mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org

[Date]

Dear Executive Secretary,

Notification that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing is more than insignificant within [Name of country]

[Name of country] hereby notifies the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing in which mercury amalgamation is used to extract gold from ore is more than insignificant within its territory.

Yours faithfully,

[Name and signature of Minamata Convention National Focal Point or other duly authorized government official]

Cc: Minamata Convention National Focal Point of country