



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.

Hg

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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