

## Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on Mercury

This Regulation establishes measures and conditions concerning the use and storage of and trade in mercury, mercury compounds and mixtures of mercury, and the manufacture and use of and trade in mercury-added products, and the management of mercury waste, in order to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

It is the European implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The Convention was adopted on 10 October 2013 and entered into force on 16 August 2017. The Convention is signed by 128 Parties: <https://minamataconvention.org/en/parties>

On 13 June 2017, the Regulation (EU) [2017/852](#) entered into force.

The Regulation bans:

- **exports** of mercury as of 1 January 2018 (export had already been banned since 15 March 2011 under the previous mercury regulation, Regulation (EC) No [1102/2008](#));
- **exports** of the mixtures of mercury and of the mercury compounds listed in Annex I, as of 1 January 2018 or 1 January 2020 (depending on the compound in question);
- **imports** of mercury and mixtures of mercury listed in Annex I, from sources such as the chlor-alkali industry, other than for their disposal as waste;
- the **export, import and manufacturing** in the European Union (EU) of mercury-added products listed in Annex II from 31 December 2018 or 31 December 2020, depending on the product in question;
- the **manufacturing and placing on the market** of new **mercury-added products**, unless proven to provide significant environmental or health benefits and authorised by the European Commission by means of an implementing act;
- the **use** of mercury and mercury compounds in manufacturing processes in which:
  - mercury or mercury compounds are used as **catalysts** (since 1 January 2018), including for the production of polyurethane,
  - mercury is used as an **electrode** (as of 1 January 2022);
- **new manufacturing processes using mercury or mercury compounds**, unless proven to provide significant environmental or health benefits and formally authorised by the Commission.

There are further obligations for waste facility operators, a prohibition for temporary storage of liquid mercury waste as from 1 January 2026, and reporting requirements from Member States to the EU Commission to prepare the EU's reporting obligation under the Minamata Convention.