

# Connecticut's Mercury Products Legislation

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# Mercury Reduction and Education Act

- Passed in 2002
- Studies in late 90's show high rate of mercury deposition in northeast
- Northeast Governors commit to “virtual elimination” of mercury from the solid waste stream
- Strategy includes model legislation
- Northeast states drafted model legislation 1998-2000.
- Variations of this law exist in ME, NH, MA. VT. CT. RI. NY, LA, CA, MN, and WA



# Provisions of Mercury Product Law

- Establishment of IMERC
- Notification – Manufacturers of products containing mercury must notify states
- Phaseout – Prohibits sale of mercury products containing more than 100mg or 50ppm of mercury
- Labeling – Remaining products must be labeled to indicate the product contains mercury
- Collection plan – Manufacturers must have a system for collection of their product.
- Sales Bans – certain products banned from sale
- Dental Best Management Practices

# IMERC

- Interstate Mercury Education and Reduction Clearinghouse
  - Established by northeast states to administer provisions of the law regionally
  - Authorized by the legislation
  - Provides manufacturer with one entity to consult on compliance with multiple state requirements
  - Housed through NEWMOA and funded by the states
  - Maintains most comprehensive database of mercury products

# Notification

- Any manufacturer of a product containing intentionally added mercury must report to IMERC:
  - Amount of mercury in a single product
  - Amount of total mercury used in products in a given year.
  - Purpose of mercury in product
  - Report filled out every three years

# Phaseout

- Mercury products prohibited from sale in Connecticut in 2 steps beginning in 2004 (>1 gram or 250 ppm) and 2006 (>100 mg or 50 ppm)
- Connecticut was the first state to ban the sale of mercury thermostats under this provision in 2004
- Exemptions allowed for necessary products where there is no technically feasible non-mercury alternative available at a reasonable cost.

# Labeling

- Products allowed for sale need to be labeled
  - Product and
  - Either package or care and use manual
- Shall be clearly visible prior to sale and inform purchaser that the product contains mercury and must be disposed of properly
- Exceptions
  - Cars – doorpost
  - Lamps – only “Hg” in a circle
  - Appliances – no label required for packaging
  - Luminaires – If not sold through retail can put information on website or catalog
  - “Medical equipment not intended for non-medical personnel” – exempt
- Alternatives allowed by application

# Collection Plan

- Manufacturer may not sell mercury products without a collection plan
  - Consent of all manufacturers to the plan if it is a group plan
  - Education component
  - Target capture rate
- Exempt
  - Formulated products consumed in use
  - Backlighting where the lighting can not be removed by the purchaser
  - Button cell batteries
  - Any other product the commissioner deems cannot be reasonably collected



# Specific Sales Bans

- Manometers
- Fever Thermometers
- Novelties

# Requirements for Dentists

- Must follow best management practices established by the department
  - Must have amalgam separators
  - Provide information to patients on alternatives
  - May not mix their own amalgam

# Other Provisions and Mercury Product Laws

- A person contracting with the owner of a commercial, industrial or office building for removal of mercury lamps must inform the owner that lamps contain mercury and of the contractor's plans for management of the lamps.
- Person who sells lamps to any of the above mentioned buildings must inform the owner of the mercury content of the lamps.
- Button cell batteries may no longer contain mercury as of July 1, 2013
- Mercury thermostats banned from disposal from residents beginning in April 2014

# Total Mercury Sold in Products in the U.S. (draft)

2001 – 2010 (Tons)

<u>Product/Component</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Percentage Change 2001 - 2010</u>
<b>All Categories</b>	<b>129.53</b>	<b>111.52</b>	<b>71.70</b>	<b>56.71</b>	<b>-56%</b>
Switches & Relays	60.07	51.44	29.93	19.43	-68%
Dental Amalgam	30.77	26.61	19.96	17.08	-44%
Thermostats	14.63	14.45	3.74	0.17	-99%
Lamps	10.71	10.07	10.65	8.40	-22%
Batteries	2.79	2.47	2.07	7.12	<b>+155%</b>
Measuring Devices	5.12	3.05	1.13	0.77	-85%
Formulated Products	1.20	1.04	1.45	1.37	<b>+14%</b>
Misc.	4.25	2.40	2.78	2.38	-44%