本署檔號 OUR REF: 來函檔號

EP1030/C1/5 Pt.8

Environmental Protection Department Cross-Boundary & International Group

33/F, Revenue Tower 5 Gloucester Road Wan Chai, Hong Kong



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27 August 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Control on Import and Export of Mercury under the Import and Export (General) Regulations (Cap. 60 sub. leg. A)

I am writing to inform you that the Import and Export (General) Regulations (Amendment of Schedules 1 and 2) Order 2020 (Amendment Order) to control the import and export of mercury had been approved by the Legislative Council on 15 July and will take effect on 1 November 2020. The purpose of the Amendment Order is to enable Hong Kong to fulfil the obligation to control the import and export of mercury under the Minamata Convention on Mercury ("the Convention").

Under the Amendment Order, "Mercury (CAS No. 7439-97-6)" will be subject to the respective import and export licensing control. Import and export licences will be administered by the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") and issued by the Director of Environmental Protection ("DEP") under the delegated authority from the Director-General of Trade and Industry. Before issuing an import or export licence, the DEP will consider whether the use of the mercury will be allowed under the Convention (e.g. for use in laboratories for research purposes or as a reference standard), whether the mercury will be stored in an environmentally sound manner, whether the source of the mercury is allowed under the Convention in the case of an import licence, and whether the import of the mercury is agreeable to the importing side in the case of an export licence. These factors for consideration will be stated in the application guidelines to be issued by the EPD before 1 November 2020.

The Convention is an international legally binding treaty to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. To prepare for the implementation of the Convention in Hong Kong, the EPD conducted a series of consultations with members of the public and relevant trades in 2018. Stakeholders generally supported the Government to introduce legislation to regulate mercury, mercury compounds and mercury-added products, including the statutory import and export control of mercury under a licensing framework.

The Amendment Order controls the trading of elemental mercury and does not cover the trading of mercury compounds, mercury-added products (e.g. mercury-containing thermometers and sphygmomanometers) or the elemental mercury contained in mercury-added products. To fulfil all the obligations under the Convention, we will introduce in due course a new piece of legislation to restrict import and export of mercury, prohibit the manufacture, import and export of mercury-added products required to be phased out by the Convention, phase out or restrict manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used, and restrict the storage of mercury and mercury compounds.

Should you have any questions about the trading of mercury (including re-export of mercury through Hong Kong) after the Amendment Order takes effect on 1 November 2020, please e-mail to <mercury@epd.gov.hk> or contact me or Ms. Chloe Fung at 2594 6013.

Yours faithfully,

(Larry CHAN)

for Director of Environmental Protection

本署檔號 OUR REF: 來函檔號

EP1030/C1/5 Pt.9

Environmental Protection Department Cross-Boundary & International Group

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有關〈進出口(一般)規例》(第60章,附屬法例A)對汞進出口的規管

謹此通知,《2020年進出口(一般)規例(修訂附表1及2)令》(修訂令) 已於2020年7月15日獲立法會通過,並將於2020年11月1日起生效,以管制汞 進出口。該修訂令旨在履行香港在《關於汞的水俁公約》(《公約》)下限 制汞進出口的责任。

根據修訂今, "汞(化學文摘社編號7439-97-6)" 須受相關的進口及出 口許可證制度規管。有關許可證由工業貿易署署長授權環境保護署(環保署) 署長發出。環保署署長在發出許可證前,會考慮申請所涉的汞是否用於《公 約》允許的用途(例如:擬用於實驗室的研究活動或用作參考標準)、是否以 環境無害化的方式儲存、是否來自《公約》允許的來源(適用於申請進口許 可證),以及進口一方是否接受進口汞(適用於申請出口許可證)。上述考慮 因素將會載列於環保署在2020年11月1日前發出的申請指引內。

《公約》是一項在國際間具法律約束力的條約,目的是保護人體健康和 環境免受人為排放和釋放的汞及汞化合物危害。為了準備在香港實施《公 約》,環保署在2018年為市民和相關業界進行了連串諮詢活動。持份者普遍 支持政府立法規管汞、汞化合物及添汞產品,包括引入發牌制度,以及將汞 的進出口納入法定管制等。

修訂令旨在管制元素汞的貿易,並不包括汞化合物、添汞產品(例如: 水銀溫度計及血壓計等)或載於添汞產品內的元素汞的貿易。為履行《公約》 下所有責任,我們將會在適當時候引入新法例,限制汞的進出口,禁止製造 和進出口受《公約》淘汰的添汞產品,淘汰或限制使用汞或汞化合物的生產 工序,以及限制儲存汞和汞化合物。

如對汞貿易(包括經香港轉口汞)在2020年11月1日修訂令生效後的安排有任何疑問,請電郵至<mercury@epd.gov.hk>,或與本人或馮可頤女士(電話:25946013)聯絡。

環境保護署署長

(陳浩銘



代行)

2020年8月27日