

Minamata Convention on Mercury

Place of adoption of the Convention	Kumamoto, Japan
Date of signature	10 October 2013
Date of entry into force	Need to be ratified by 50 countries for entry into force
Main objective	<p>The Convention draws attention to a global and ubiquitous metal that, while naturally occurring, has broad uses in everyday objects and is released to the atmosphere, soil and water from a variety of sources. Controlling the anthropogenic releases of mercury throughout its lifecycle has been a key factor in shaping the obligations under the Convention.</p> <p>Major highlights of the Minamata Convention include a ban on new mercury mines, the phasing-out of existing ones, phase down and eventual phase out of mercury use in products and processes, control measures on mercury emissions to air and on releases to land and water, and the regulation of the informal sector of artisanal and/or small-scale gold mining. The Convention also addresses interim storage of mercury and its disposal once it becomes waste, and sites contaminated by mercury that may eventually pose as a health issue.</p>
Official website	http://www.mercuryconvention.org/
United Arab Emirates	
Date of signature / acceptance / ratification	10 October 2013 (signature)/ 7 April 2015 (ratification)
Decree of approval / ratification	Federal Decree No. (41) of the year 2015
<p>Notes:</p> <p>The Convention derives its name from the city of Minamata in the Japanese province of Kumamoto, which has suffered from serious mercury contamination resulting from the activity of a local chemical plant leaking into the city's bay and bio accumulating in fish and oysters in the bay, which led to the death of thousands of people. Mercury contamination disease is known as "Minamata disease".</p> <p>This convention is closely linked to the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention.</p>	