

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Public Health

No. 1280/Sor Tor
Vientiane, 15 November 2019

Notification on termination of importation, production, distribution and use of mercury containing products

To: chief of department, board of directors in all level of industries, department of public health, all governmental and private public health service throughout the country

Re: termination of importation, production, distribution and use of mercury containing products in both governmental and private public health sector throughout the nation

- Refer to regulation on sanitation and health promotion No.08/Sor Por Kor on 21 December 2011
- Refer to Minamata convention concerning mercury on 12 September 2017

To take action and amplify article 19 on public health center concerning sanitation and health promotion No. 08/Sor Por Kor on 21 December 2011 and Minamata convention concerning mercury on 12 September 2017

This notification is to prevent human and environment from releasing of mercury and mercury containing products/chemicals. This termination of importation, production, distribution and use of mercury containing products in both governmental and private public health sector throughout the nation will be effective in the end of 2020.

Notification from Minister

1. By the end of 2020, there must be no importation, production, distribution and medical use such as thermometer, sphygmomanometer, dental fillings, antimicrobials that are contaminated or composed of mercury in public health center. Same requirement will be applied to cosmetic products. This will apply throughout the country including central and regional of both government and private sector.
2. Every public health center including sanitarium, local hospital, public health division, department of health care and rehabilitation, department of health needs to register and report all mercury containing equipment in order to properly eliminate according to regulation of waste and sewage possession in public health service center. (No. 1373/Sor Tor 23 November 2017; Part 4, eradication of waste and sewage from public health sector; Article 21, Heavy metal containing waste and sewage eradication; Item 2.11, eradication of heavy metal containing waste and sewage methodology);

- 1) They can be reproduced and reuse after they are processed under special industrial system.
 - 2) They can be exported to the countries that can eliminate hazardous chemical containing waste and sewage where the transportation regulation must be in accordance with Basel Convention.
 - 3) If item 1 and 2 are not applicable, they can be compressed and dealt with in accordance with World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation.
 - 4) This type of waste is forbidden to combust, if not compressed, due to the causation of air and water pollution.
3. Every public health center must have procurement plan to obtain mercury-free equipment in order to protect the health impact of healthcare providers, individuals and contamination in environment. For example, mercury based medical equipments can be replaced by safer medical equipments considering its technology, budget and safety properties such as
- 1) Mercury thermometer can be with electronic thermometer.
 - 2) Sphygmomanometer can be replaced with electronic sphygmomanometer.
 - 3) Mercury dental fillings can be replaced with Composite, Glasionomer or Abhesor.
4. There must be establishment of responsible officer to seize the importation, use, distribution, and medical use of mercury containing equipment or products. This plan is expected to be achieved by the end of 2020 according to Minamata convention.
5. There will be a plan to construct, follow, assess and report it to the original affiliation every 6 month and in October, 2020.
6. This matter will be taken care of and coordinated by Department of Health and Health Promotion, Department of Health Care and Rehabilitation, and Food and Drug Administration Department.
7. This notification will be effective from the signed date.

Public Health Minister

Associate Professor Dr. Bounkong Syhavong

About Green & Blue Planet Solutions Company Limited

Green & Blue Planet Solutions Co., Ltd. (GBP), an environmental consulting company located in Bangkok, Thailand, was established as a joint venture company between EnviX, Ltd., Tokyo-based environmental regulatory consulting firm and Yamaki Environment Co., Ltd., Japanese environmental engineering company. Our environmental experts provides research & consulting service in the field of Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) in Thailand and ASEAN region.