

Rayovac Europe Ltd
Unit 2a
Stephenson Industrial Estate
District 12
Washington
Tyne and Wear
NE37 3HW

Head
UNEP Chemicals Branch
DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine
Geneva
Switzerland

Dear Sir, Madam

Re: Becoming a member of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

I write to you on behalf Rayovac to express our support and commitment towards the goals laid out by the United Nations' Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership. Rayovac is the world's leading manufacturer of zinc air hearing aid batteries – producing more than 500m batteries every year worldwide – and fully supports the partnership in its aims of protecting the environment and human health by reducing and eliminating the release of mercury into the environment.

We are keen to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to this task by becoming a member of the partnership. Our particular expertise in this area, as the world's leading manufacturer of hearing aid batteries, is the reduction of mercury through the development of new environmentally-friendly battery technology.

Over the past five years Rayovac has worked towards the removal of mercury from hearing aid batteries in response to growing demands around the world for cleaner products. Following exhaustive research and development and a significant investment in new technology, we have succeeded in introducing our first ever mercury free batteries.

Mercury has traditionally been used in small amounts in hearing aid batteries for more than half a century as a fundamental element of the cell – helping to provide stability and boosting battery performance by aiding conductivity and preventing 'gassing'.

By completely redesigning and rebuilding the anode, cathode and electrical formulations of our batteries we have succeeded in finding cleaner materials and production processes whilst maintaining performance.


The benefits of removing mercury from all hearing aid batteries manufactured globally each year are significant; it would prevent the release of more than 6,500 kg of mercury into the atmosphere per annum.

For this reason we believe that eliminating the use of mercury in hearing aid batteries is the right thing to do. It will help to protect the environment, match growing consumer demands for environmentally friendly products and tie in with international efforts to phase out mercury use. Some areas in the US have already introduced bans on mercury in hearing aid batteries and this will eventually become common practice elsewhere.

As a company, we have a strong track record and keen commitment to the environment and are keen to share our passion and knowledge with the rest of the UNEP partnership. We are already in the process of working towards further product enhancements in the delivery of mercury free hearing aid batteries.

Please find enclosed along with our letter our completed application form and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully,



Vince Armitage
Divisional Vice President

UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM*

PARTNERSHIP AREA

Please check partnership areas that your organization intends to contribute to:

- artisanal and small scale gold mining
- mercury cell chlor alkali production
- mercury air transport and fate research
- mercury in products
- mercury releases from coal combustion
- mercury waste management
- mercury supply and storage

Please indicate in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the indicated partnership areas.

ORGANIZATION NAME

Rayovac Europe Ltd.

NAME, FUNCTIONAL TITLE OF REPRESENTATIVE

Paula Brinson Pyke , Marketing Manager

ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION

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TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

- Government
- Regional economic integration organization
- Non-government Organization
- Industry
- Scientific community
- Other, please specify: _____

*UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Registration Forms are to be accompanied by a letter to UNEP signifying support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and commitment to achieving the partnership goal.

The support letter should specify how the organization intends to contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Please submit the support letter and registration form to:

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11-13, chemin des Anémones
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