

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Cement Industry Area

Partnership Area Lead:

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Issue

Mercury is present in the raw materials (e.g., limestone) and/or in the fuel (e.g., coal) released in the combustion process. The major pathway for mercury releases from the cement industry is via emissions to the atmosphere.

Objective

The objective of the cement industry partnership area is to minimize mercury releases to the environment from cement manufacture.

The partnership area aims to supplement existing programs in key, strategically selected ways to ensure that reductions are globally significant. The partnership area aims to support such efforts principally by:

- developing information that will allow the industry to be better informed about potential methods for reducing mercury emissions
- providing information to help guide companies in choosing a mercury reduction strategy
- providing information to assist companies in implementing their chosen mercury reduction strategy

Strategy

The cement industry area also seeks to update mercury inventory information by providing guidance on methods for cement plants to assess their emissions more accurately.

The partnership area endeavors to facilitate implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and specifically address:

Article 8: Emissions

8.2b,c,d & e: Cement clinker manufacturing facilities are relevant sources for which emissions should be controlled

8.3: Implementation of strategies that contribute to control of emissions

8.4, 8.5, 8.6: How to implement BAT/BEP for control of mercury emissions from clinker production facilities

8.7: Contribute to developing mercury inventory for the cement industry

Article 14: Capacity building and technical assistance

Contribution to Implementation of the Minamata Convention

The major efforts to date have been in developing an information document to be used by cement plant operators. The document, which is being developed by a consensus-based process in the partnership area, seeks to help operators to understand how to choose among the various technologies outlined by the BAT/BEP Expert Group as well as some key issues that must be addressed in implementing these technologies. Information on industry experience in using the various technologies is documented. This document is meant to serve as a “how to” guide to assist operators in the

implementation of mercury emission reduction strategies.

As part of the document, mass-balance techniques to understand the source of mercury emissions as well as estimate the quantity of emissions are given. This will assist some companies in better understanding their emissions and making a more accurate assessment of mercury inventories.

Outreach Activities

A representative of the partnership participated in the PAG6 event on 31 October – 1 November 2014 in Bangkok. A presentation was delivered outlining principle activities to date and future work items for the partnership.



Future Work to be carried out to support implementation of the Minamata Convention

Development of database for emissions inventory: Because of the wide variation in mercury emissions worldwide, this work would:

- help disseminate information on monitoring techniques
- support evaluation of emissions and the effectiveness of emission reduction approaches

- establish an accurate plant information database
- encourage inclusion of cement manufacturing in country mercury inventories

Capacity building: This initiative will develop outreach materials and collaborate with complementary programs to disseminate information about mercury emissions by the sector. Information will be shared to promote understanding of techniques for mercury management and control. Other aspects would be the support of the development of partnership-related policies and regulatory frameworks and the facilitation of exchange of knowledge on new and emerging technologies.

Collaboration with other partnership areas and relevant stakeholders

The CSI Co-hosted the launch meeting of the partnership area in Geneva in June of 2013. Several countries were represented at the event, including Egypt, Italy, India, Japan, Chile, Korea, Indonesia and Pakistan, as were national and regional cement associations including FICEM, CEMBUREAU, CIF and the JCA. A range of cement companies and environmental NGOs also participated in the event. Currently, two representatives of the partnership area participate in the UNEP Expert Panel working on the development BAT/BEP for the sector.

For More Information

Visit our web site:

<http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/Mercury/GlobalMercuryPartnership>

Or contact the partnership area lead:

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