Handling, Packaging, Labelling, Transport of Mercury Wastes

Norway ODA mercury Storage and Disposal Project in the Caribbean

Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

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Basel Storage Classfications

- The Basel Technical Guidelines list two disposal operations for the storage for mercury wastes, namely R13 and D15:
- **R14 – Accumulation of material intended for operations R4, R5, R8 or R12**: Mercury wastes may be accumulated with intent to conduct recycling/reclamation or recovery . Such storage is often regulated at the national level, where specific time periods may be set after the expiry of which the mercury wastes must be transported to the appropriate recycling/reclamation or recovery facility.
- **D15 – Storage pending any of the operations D5, D9, D12, D13 or D14**: Mercury wastes may be stored pending physico-chemical treatment or placement into specially engineered landfills or permanent storage.

Handling, Packaging, Labelling

- **Handling:** When handling wastes consisting of mercury, it is important to pay particular attention to the prevention of evaporation and spillage of mercury into the environment.
- **Packaging:** The containers in which mercury wastes are transported provide the most direct barrier to prevent releases. Use appropriate containers that have been manufactured to conform to UN standards
- **Labelling:** Appropriate labelling assures the **separation** of mercury wastes from other wastes and ensure that the **hazards of the waste are clearly communicated** during transport. This means that the containers have the relevant hazard pictograms of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

Transport

- Often major spills occur due to poor transport palnning
- Prior to transportation, **contingency plans** need to be developed and implemented in order to prevent/minimize environmental impacts associated with spills, fires and other potential emergencies.
- **Waste shipment acceptance procedures and consistency controls** are keys to successful transport of mercury wastes
- Throughout the logistics chain, it is important to ensure the **Traceability** of mercury wastes. This will help to ensure that they are not diverted for **illegitimate uses or inadequately disposed**.
- Traceability is an approach which identifies and records every activity of hazardous waste management from generation to disposal. Ideally, mercury wastes should be traceable throughout the lifecycle, including after disposal