

Canada-Wide Standards for Mercury and Dioxins/Furans (Existing Incinerators)
- Manitoba Implementation Plans -

Overview of the Standards:

Canada-wide Standards (CWS) are being established and implemented pursuant to the 1998 Canada-wide Accord on Environmental Harmonization of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) and its Canada-wide Environmental Standards Sub-agreement. The Council of Ministers (COM) endorsed Standards for mercury (at its June 2000 meeting) and for dioxins/furans (at its May 2001 meeting) from waste incineration. CWS are developed through an intergovernmental process engaging external stakeholders in advisory or consultative roles. Implementation of the standards are the responsibility of each jurisdiction.

Waste incineration has historically accounted for significant portion of mercury and dioxins/furans emitted in Canada. As with other sectors, reductions in emissions have also occurred over the years through the implementation of emission control technology and pollution prevention practices to reduce mercury content in products that eventually become a part of the waste stream. Incineration in Canada is estimated to release about 446 kilograms per year of mercury and 25 grams per year of dioxins/furans.

Four types of incinerators are addressed within this CWS. In Manitoba, there are 33 biomedical incinerators mostly located at health care facilities. A similar number of “municipal solid waste” incinerators are located in the province; these are mainly very small units located at schools, commercial establishments, *etc.* and are not the large facilities that typically service the domestic waste from communities. (Both the mercury CWS and the dioxins/furans CWS define municipal solid waste to include any waste which might normally be disposed of in a non-secure landfill site if not incinerated (*i.e.*, including non-hazardous solid wastes regardless of origin), but is not intended to include “clean” wood waste.) There are no hazardous waste nor sewage sludge incinerators located within the province.

CWS Numeric Target and Timeframe:

For existing facilities, application of best available pollution prevention and control techniques to achieve a maximum concentration in the exhaust gases from the facility as follows:

Incineration Sector	Combustion Capacity (tonnes/year)	Mercury CWS ($\mu\text{g}/\text{Rm}^3$)	Dioxin and Furan CWS ($\text{pg I-TEQ}/\text{m}^3$)
Municipal waste incineration	$> 26^1$	N/A	80
	$< 26^2$	N/A	80
	$> 120^1$	20	N/A
	$< 120^2$	20	N/A
Medical waste incineration	$> 26^1$	N/A	80
	$< 26^2$	N/A	80
	$> 120^1$	20	N/A
	$< 120^2$	40	N/A

Hazardous waste incineration	N/A	50	80
Sewage sludge incineration	N/A	70	100

N/A: not applicable

¹ larger facilities must achieve the CWS stack concentration as confirmed by annual testing.

² smaller facilities must make determined efforts to achieve the CWS stack concentration.

Existing facilities will endeavour to meet the standards on the following schedule:

Incineration Sector	Schedule for Mercury CWS	Schedule for Dioxin/Furan CWS
Municipal waste incineration	2006	2006
Medical waste incineration	2006	2006
Hazardous waste incineration	2003	2006
Sewage sludge incineration	2005	2005

Implementation of the CWS for Mercury and the CWS for Dioxins/Furans at Existing Incinerators - Manitoba

General Accountability:

Manitoba's overall approach to existing incinerators will be to integrate both the mercury and dioxin and furan CWS requirements into relevant processes as progress is made towards achieving compliance by the year 2006.

Manitoba is still in the initial stages of developing and implementing a strategy for bringing existing incinerators into compliance with the CWS requirements. Manitoba Health, in consultation with the province's regional health authorities, is working on a strategy that will broadly address biomedical waste including waste creation minimization, handling and disposal issues. A plan will be developed to ensure that remaining incinerators comply with CWS requirements and/or alternate technologies, as may be required, are instituted to treat biomedical waste. Also, an active information campaign to facility operators of both biomedical and "municipal solid waste" incinerators is being delivered by inspection/enforcement staff of the Department to draw attention to the forthcoming changes that will be required to meet the stringent standards.

The options under active consideration by the Department to bring about compliance to the CWS include an aggressive campaign to seek voluntary compliance with the CWS, regulatory amendments specifying the CWS requirements, *etc.*

Milestones and Timeframes:

No specific timelines have been established, as yet, for this activity.

Public Role:

To support Licencing under the Manitoba Environment Act, a public involvement in the environmental assessment and licencing processes is mandated by the Act. The Act

requires public notice of proposals and an opportunity to participate in the review through the submission of comments. Public meetings and hearings may also be convened, as necessary. Additionally, Section 41(2) of the Act also requires that in the formulation or substantive review of regulations, the Minister shall provide opportunity for public consultation and shall seek advice and recommendations. As part of these broader processes, a public role in the implementation of the CWS would be provided.

Access to Information:

Under its Environment Act, Manitoba maintains a number of 'public registries' across the Province where information related to environmental assessment, licencing and other information can be placed and will be publicly accessible. Information related to this CWS would be deposited at the appropriate registry sites as well as at key central locations.

Verifiable Progress:

As a condition of its Licence (or by amendment to the Regulation), existing facilities would be required to annually report on achievement of the CWS.

Manitoba Conservation
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