

**CANADA-WIDE
STANDARD
FOR MERCURY**
- Alberta Implementation Plan

***Existing Waste
Incineration
Facilities***



Canada-Wide Standard for Mercury Alberta Implementation Plan

- Existing Waste Incineration Facilities -

Background

In January 1998, the Canada-Wide Accord on Environmental Harmonization was signed by Alberta and most other jurisdictions. With this signing, Alberta Environment committed to participate in the Canada-Wide Standards Development process under the Standards Sub-agreement. One key objective of the sub-agreement is to develop ambient standards that provide a common high degree of environmental quality. It also anticipates standards for discharge limits where such standards represent the best strategy for achieving that environmental goal.

The Canada-Wide Standards development process reviewed the nature of the mercury issue and concluded that two distinctive source categories were amenable to further actions. They are life-cycle management of products containing mercury to minimize releases, and reduction or minimization actions for major point source emissions.

Nature and Scope of the Standard(s)

Existing facilities will be expected to comply with emission limits in the exhaust gas exiting the stack of the facility.

Numeric Targets

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

Municipal waste incineration:

- greater than 120 tonnes/year - $20 \mu\text{g}/\text{Rm}^3$
- 120 tonnes/year or less - $20 \mu\text{g}/\text{Rm}^3$

Medical waste incineration:

- greater than 120 tonnes/year - $20 \mu\text{g}/\text{Rm}^3$
- 120 tonnes/year or less - $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{Rm}^3$

Hazardous waste incineration - $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{Rm}^3$

Sewage sludge incineration - $70 \mu\text{g}/\text{Rm}^3$

General Accountability

Alberta's approach to existing waste incineration facilities will be to incorporate the appropriate Canada-Wide Standard for mercury as a condition in approvals issued under the *Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* for large incinerators (greater than 120 tonnes/year). Small facilities operating at 10 tonnes/month or less (120 tonnes/year or less) follow a Code of Practice. The Code of Practice prohibits burning of hazardous waste containing mercury or its compounds. Achievement of the Canada-Wide Standard at large facilities will be based on stack survey information.

Public Role/Transparency

The approval renewal process for existing large facilities includes public notice of proposed renewal of the facility approval. This allows for affected stakeholders to submit any concerns they may have to Alberta Environment for consideration prior to renewal of the approval for the facility. For small facilities, the operators will be required to keep records of waste incinerated. This information is made available to Alberta Environment on request and can also be made available to the public.

Access to Information

Information requirements in an approval and information required under the Code of Practice can be made available to the public.

Verifiable Progress

Facilities under approval are required to submit an annual report outlining facility performance with respect to approval conditions. This includes submitting mercury stack testing results and comparison to the Canada-Wide Standard. Small facilities under a Code of Practice are required to keep records of waste incinerated on file for audit by Alberta Environment. This process will be used to verify achievement of the Canada-Wide Standard by Alberta Environment.

