

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

***Mercury  
Containing  
Lamps***



# Canada-Wide Standard for Mercury Alberta Implementation Plan

## *- Mercury Containing Lamps -*

### **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)**

The Canada-Wide Standard for mercury containing lamps takes a pollution prevention approach to reducing environmental releases of mercury by reducing the mercury content of lamps sold in Canada.

As a complementary activity, jurisdictions that do not currently recycle lamps will determine the environmental merits and feasibility of lamp recovery/recycling, and initiate efforts to encourage recycling and safe disposal of used lamps consistent with their solid waste management priorities.

### **Numeric Targets**

The Canada-Wide Standard is a 70% reduction by 2005, and an 80% reduction by 2010 in the average content of mercury in all mercury containing lamps sold in Canada, from a 1990 baseline.

### **General Accountability**

Alberta launched a new program on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001 to promote the recycling of fluorescent lamps. Municipalities, universities, schools and hospitals were the focus of Phase One, with over 80 new partners signing on to the program to voluntarily recycle fluorescent lamps from their premises.

Phase Two was launched on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002 for the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors. Partners to the program are currently promoting participation to major facility owners and corporations across Alberta. To date we have received commitments from more than 25 new partners from these sectors.

Reporting will be voluntary through recyclers of fluorescent lamps, and statistics will be available by the end of 2002.

### **Public Role/Transparency**

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment have set targets for the lighting industry to reduce the amount of mercury contained in fluorescent lamps, and this will be tracked and reported by the Federal Government.

Residents and corporations may also choose to select low-mercury lamps, contributing to the achievement of this Canada-Wide Standard as well as recycling the lamp at end-of-life. Communities across Alberta are working on programs to collect and recycle fluorescent lamps from residents.

### **Access to Information**

Alberta Environment will report on recycling rates from information received from recyclers, partners, and the lighting industry.

### **Verifiable Progress**

Efforts to promote recycling and overall reduction actions pertaining to fluorescent lamps collected in Alberta will be recorded and made available on our website:  
<http://www.gov.ab.ca/env/waste/aow/flcr>.

