

ANNEX "E" Guidelines for setting up A Proper Temporary Mercury Storage Area

Mercury-containing products not in use must be stored in non-breakable containers with tight-fitting lids. The containers must be clearly labeled as to their contents. Rooms where mercury-containing items are stored shall be tested periodically using a mercury vapor sniffer. Even after most uses of mercury have been discontinued in the hospital, mercury-containing products may still be in storage from past uses. All Health care facilities shall check storage areas for old, damaged or outdated equipment. If mercury-containing products are found, contact the hazardous waste management coordinator. After the removal of the mercury-containing products, the areas shall be checked with the mercury vapor sniffer.

Health care facilities shall keep a permanent record of all materials brought in and out of the mercury temporary storage area.

Specific Storage Requirements and Standards

Storage areas for Mercury and Mercury Compounds or Mercury-bearing or Mercury-contaminated wastes items must meet the following conditions:

1. The storage area shall be marked or delineated clearly by fencing, posts, or walls in order to limit access to it.
2. A recording system on the condition of the storage area shall be established, details of which shall include the observations, name of inspector, date inspected, etc.
3. The dates when the mercury and mercury-containing materials were placed in the storage area shall be indicated on the container and duly recorded.
4. The storage area shall have adequate roof and walls to prevent rain water from reaching the mercury anti-mercury-containing material.
5. There shall be no cracks or openings of any kind in the containment floor or walls that could allow the flow of mercury outside the area.
6. Floor of the storage area must be constructed of impervious material such as concrete or steel, and if mercury is in liquid form, shall be surrounded by a bund wall to contain spills.
7. Visible warning signs and notices must be placed in conspicuous areas in the premises.
8. Drainage facilities shall be installed in premises where mercury and related compounds are used and handled to contain possible spillage or releases.
9. Emergency showers and eyewash units with adequate water supply shall be made available in premises where mercury and related compounds are used or handled.
10. Fire-fighting facilities shall be in place for use in case of fire/s.
11. Access to mercury and its compounds shall be restricted to those authorized and with adequate training for such purpose.
12. A copy of the material Safety Data Sheet shall always be available in the area.
13. Segregation, adequate ventilation and ideal condition for storage of the chemical shall be maintained in the area.
14. Adequate security sitting and access to the area shall be observed.
15. Project loading or unloading of containers shall be observed.

16. A workable emergency plan must be in place and implemented immediately in case of accidental spillage and other emergencies.
17. Only trained personnel shall be handling containers in storage as well as in the transport of such substances of mixtures.