



# IMERC

## INTERSTATE MERCURY EDUCATION & REDUCTION CLEARINGHOUSE

### Reducing mercury in products by:

- Fostering collaboration and information sharing
- Supporting implementation of state mercury reduction laws
- Managing and analyzing data
- Harmonizing policies and programs

Starting in 1999 the states in the Northeast and other parts of the country actively began to pursue enactment of legislation focused on reducing mercury in products and waste. In 2001, the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA) launched the Interstate Mercury Education and Reduction Clearinghouse (IMERC) to provide:

- *Ongoing technical and programmatic assistance to states that have enacted mercury education and reduction legislation*
- *A single point of contact for industry and the public for information on mercury-added products and member states' mercury education and reduction programs*

### Activities

IMERC facilitates deliberations that provide advice and assistance to the individual states for their decision-making. The Clearinghouse:

- Collects and manages data submitted by manufacturers of mercury-added products to implement notification provisions of state mercury reduction legislation.
- Facilitates interstate collaboration on the development and implementation of public education and outreach programs on mercury-added products.
- Makes information on mercury-added products available to industry and the public.
- Responds to requests for information on mercury-added products, the requirements of the member states, and the status of state implementation of laws.
- Provides technical assistance and facilitates member reviews concerning manufacturers' applications for labeling of and exemptions from the phase-out of mercury-added products and manufacturers' plans for collection and proper waste management of mercury-containing materials.

### Structure

IMERC's membership consists of state government agencies, including:

- Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
- Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

All of the members pay annual dues and have a vote on the recommendations made by the Clearinghouse. All of the state representatives to IMERC are appointed by the responsible state agency commissioner/director.

IMERC launched a supporting membership option in October 2016. Supporting Members strengthen IMERC's ability to fulfill its mission to help states implement laws and programs aimed at getting mercury out of products, the waste stream, and the environment. IMERC invites manufacturers, distributors, and importers of mercury-added products; trade associations; non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and other interested parties to join. **For information about the benefits of supporting membership and a list of the current Members, please visit:** [www.newmoa.org/programs/mercury-clearinghouse](http://www.newmoa.org/programs/mercury-clearinghouse)



NEWMOA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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IMERC's Steering Committee consists of at least one representative from each member state. This group oversees all of IMERC's activities and discusses policy and programmatic directions. IMERC's Workgroups focus on requirements that states have enacted related to mercury-added products, including:

- A **Notification Workgroup** that coordinates state reporting requirements by manufacturers, manages a single point of contact for submitting Notification Forms, and facilitates interstate review.
- A **Product Labeling Workgroup** that coordinates state mandatory product labeling programs to help ensure consistency and facilitates interstate review of alternative labeling applications.
- A **Phase-Out Exemption Workgroup** that coordinates state reviews of phase-out exemption applications.

NEWMOA's staff provides logistical, facilitation, and technical support for IMERC.

**"Mercury reduction legislation aims to reduce human and environmental health impacts. IMERC assists states achieve compliance, ensuring efficient communication with the regulated community."**

**Andrew Pomiak, Notification Workgroup Chair**  
Environmental Specialist, Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management, Division of Materials Management  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

## Information Resources

IMERC's Mercury-Added Products Database presents information submitted to IMERC on the amount and purpose of mercury in consumer products. The Database is intended to inform consumers, recyclers, policy makers, and others about:

- Manufacturers of mercury-added products
- Products that contain intentionally-added mercury
- Mercury content in products
- Total mercury used in product lines sold in the US every three years

To access the Database, please visit:  
<https://newmoa-inq.govonlineaas.com>



Manufacturers and importers submit their mercury-added product data through IMERC's electronic reporting system to comply with laws in the IMERC-member states listed above. The state notification requirements have been in effect for products manufactured or distributed in the participating states beginning in January 2001.

The online Mercury-Added Products Database, allows for public access to the data. After submission, the IMERC Notification Workgroup reviews every product notification. Following approval by the Workgroup, the information is posted to the Database.

IMERC periodically publishes an *IMERC Alert* ([www.newmoa.org/programs/mercury-clearinghouse/imerc-guidance/imerc-alert](http://www.newmoa.org/programs/mercury-clearinghouse/imerc-guidance/imerc-alert)), an electronic bulletin that informs manufacturers and distributors of mercury-added products and their consultants, lawyers, and trade associations about new requirements and key deadlines.

IMERC maintains guidance ([www.newmoa.org/programs/mercury-clearinghouse/imerc-guidance](http://www.newmoa.org/programs/mercury-clearinghouse/imerc-guidance)) for the regulated community on compliance with state mercury reduction laws.

For state-specific guidance, please visit: [www.newmoa.org/programs/mercury-clearinghouse/imerc-guidance/by-state](http://www.newmoa.org/programs/mercury-clearinghouse/imerc-guidance/by-state)

For more information contact: [imerc@newmoa.org](mailto:imerc@newmoa.org)

**"IMERC is an invaluable resource for the concerted execution of mercury product laws. IMERC facilitates coordination among states while providing the key structure, data management, and administrative support that ensures the smooth implementation of Connecticut's mercury programs."**

**Brenna Giannetti, IMERC Chair**  
Environmental Analyst, Office of Policy & Planning,  
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