



Clean Lighting Coalition

A GLOBAL COALITION TO ELIMINATE TOXIC LIGHTING UNDER THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

THE COALITION

Around the world, people unknowingly interact with dangerous lights everyday. Certain types of light bulbs, present in our homes, offices, schools and community buildings, contain mercury. Mercury is a chemical and neurotoxin, and can be released when a fluorescent bulb breaks, and through the manufacturing and disposal processes.

The World Health Organization classifies mercury as top-ten most dangerous chemical because it is **highly toxic to humans –particularly developing children and pregnant women –and are a significant threat to environmental and ecosystem health.**

The Clean Lighting Coalition (CLIC) aims to leverage expert knowledge and clean lighting stakeholders to transition global markets to safe, cost-effective, and energy-saving LED lighting by **removing the exemption for fluorescents in the Minamata Convention on Mercury.**

“The technological advancements in LED lighting over the past decade have far surpassed even the most advanced mercury-containing fluorescent bulbs.”

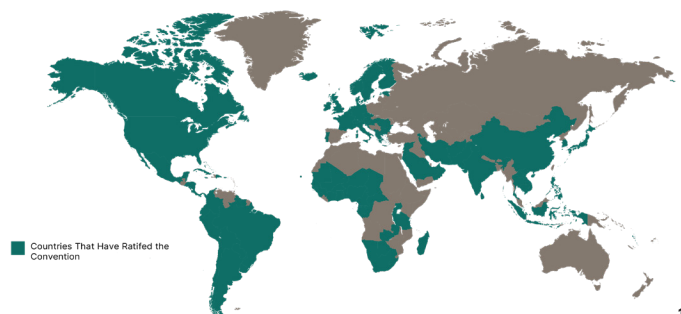
PROFESSOR SHUJI NAKAMURA, NOBEL PRIZE FOR PHYSICS (2014), INVENTOR OF BLUE LIGHT LED

THE CONVENTION

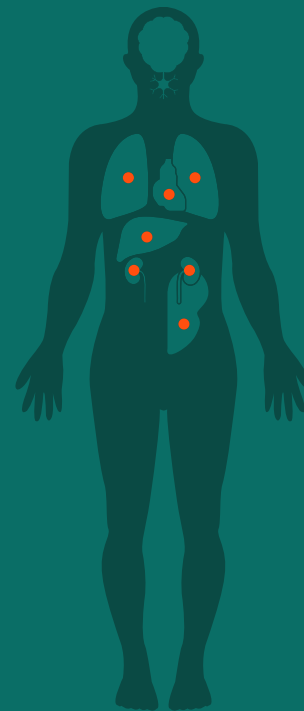
The Minamata Convention on Mercury was launched in 2013 with the goal to “Make Mercury History” by eliminating the use of mercury in products and processes worldwide. The Convention entered into force in 2017 following ratification by 50 countries. Today, there are 131 parties to the Convention

Despite commendable progress of the convention in phasing out the use of mercury in products and processes, it includes **special exemptions for mercury-based fluorescent lighting products, citing insufficient cost-effective alternatives across global markets.** However, the rapid development, increasing accessibility and affordability of mercury-free LED lighting makes the exemption unnecessary.

In May 2021, representatives from the Africa region proposed an amendment to remove special exemptions for fluorescents under the Minamata Convention. To be voted in, **2/3 of ratifying parties must support the amendment at the upcoming Conference of Parties (COP4).** CLIC is mobilising advocates, industry and governments to endorse the amendment at the upcoming COP.



Signal your commitment to clean, healthy lighting



Over the last 5 years, LEDs have become widely available and affordable in markets around the globe. These clean, cost-effective products are gradually replacing toxic mercury-lighting to safeguard public health, save energy, and protect the environment.

As wealthy countries lead the lighting transition, the rest of the world must not become a dumping ground for toxic products. Without intervention, a transition to clean super-efficient lighting may take years due to the lobbying efforts of fluorescent lamp suppliers. Consumers will be left with poor quality, inefficient and unsafe lighting products.

Join the global call to action and signal your organizations commitment to an equitable transition to cleaner, lower-cost lighting.

Accelerating the transition to mercury-free lighting will:

- Eliminate 232 metric tonnes of mercury pollution from the environment, both from the bulbs themselves and from avoided burning of coal in power plants
- Avoid 3.5 GT of CO2 emissions cumulatively between 2025-2050
- Cut global electricity use by approximately 3%



Health

Fluorescent light bulbs contain mercury, which poses a threat to the public health, particularly for developing children and babies. Exposure to mercury can affect the nervous, digestive and immune systems, as well as the lungs, kidneys, skin and eyes.



Economics

LEDs consume up to **60% less energy** and last **2-3 times longer** lowering electricity bills and reducing demands on increasingly strained national grids. A global transition to LED light bulbs would **reduce the global power demand by up to 3%**.



Environment

At the end of life, majority of mercury-laden fluorescent lamps are discarded in general waste streams where they easily break and release mercury vapors into the environment. Typically **less than 10% of mercury in fluorescents is recovered**.



Tech

One of the biggest advantages of mercury-free LED lighting is the opportunity for higher quality lighting compared to the mercury-based bulbs. LED retrofit bulbs come in a wide variety of sizes, lengths and color temperatures.

CONTACT

 CLEANLIGHTINGCOALITION.ORG

 INFO@CLEANLIGHTINGCOALITION.ORG

 @CLEAN_LIGHTING

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