

## Hg Storage Process

### Introduction

Mercury-containing devices have been an integral part of health care facility (HCF) operations. Considering the adverse health impacts due to possible spillages of mercury during the use of mercury containing devices in HCFs, it is felt necessary to prepare guidelines for ensuring proper management of mercury bearing waste generated from HCFs. These guidelines outline precautions to be taken by the health care staff in the event of mercury spillages possibly due to the breakage of mercury base devices and its handling in an environmentally sound manner. This document is confined to provide guidance on the aspects especially precautions to be taken to avoid mercury spillages during the routine maintenance of mercury based medical instruments as well as routine use of medical instruments, precautions to be taken in case of mercury spillage, mercury spill collection procedures, storage of collected waste contaminated with mercury and suggests final disposal options.

### Disposal through a Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF):

A Very feasible option for disposal of mercury bearing waste is to handover properly segregated mercury bearing waste to an authorised common bio-medical waste treatment facility (CBWTF) representative being CBWTF operator collects the waste daily from the member health care facility, on charge basis for further treatment and safe disposal as to be authorised by the SPCB/PCC under the BMW Rules. The role of CBWTF may be restricted to the following:

- Safe collection of mercury bearing waste from HCFs
- Safe removal /transportation/transfer of elemental mercury from damaged and end of life medical instruments and storage of the same in leak proof steel containers under controlled conditions.
- Safe storage of residual mercury bearing waste as described in section 5.5.
- Sale of elemental mercury resource to any authorized recyclers or manufacturers identified by the SPCB/PCC.

Final disposal of all mercury bearing waste and equipment to nearby TSDF for final disposal in SLF after pre-treatment..



