

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO REGULATE MERCURY USE IN THE GOLD MINING SECTOR?

- From August 1, 2019, all importers, retailers, traders, and distributors of mercury must obtain an Environmental Authorisation from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) before a licence is granted by the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB) to import, retail or distribute Mercury. This is in keeping with the Environmental Protection Act Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- Written consent of the Commissioner of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission is required at all times before any shipment of mercury is imported into Guyana for mining purposes.
- CODES OF PRACTICE for the use of mercury are being implemented to provide guidance and promote the best management practices in accordance with the Mining (Amendment) Regulations (2005).
- The use of retort is promoted among artisanal and small-scale gold miners to reduce their exposure to mercury vapour from burning amalgam.



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MINE SMARTER



LIVE HEALTHIER

DID YOU KNOW?

Using mercury to amalgamate gold can easily cause contamination of the:

- Miners themselves;
- Their families;
- Communities;
- People living a long distance away; &
- Environment.



FUN FACT!

Long-term exposure to some gold mining activities could lead to health risks and environmental impacts.

PHASING DOWN AND PHASING OUT MERCURY

It is important to phase down and phase out mercury because it is a major source of pollution that affects people and the environment. For example, when mercury is heated:

- it turns into highly poisonous fumes which can be inhaled, and
- its vapour could be brought down with rain and pollute soils and sediments in the environment