



METALLIC MERCURY DUMP STORAGE

From November 15, 2013 the new criteria for the metallic mercury storage in dumps are in force. They are established by Italian Ministerial Decree of July 29, 2013 affecting the Directive 2011/97/UE. With this law, it is applied in Italy the EU criteria that allow the temporary storage (for more than 1 year and for a maximum of 5 years) of metallic mercury in dumps.

The Decree regulates the following aspects:

- The design and management criteria for the temporary storage of metallic mercury in dumps;
- The monitoring and managing requirements to be met (including emergencies), including the keeping of specific registers;
- The specific requirements for dump admitting about to the waste composition, the suitable tanks and procedures to be followed for the storage.

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THE DECREE REGULATES THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS

The design and management criteria for the temporary storage of metallic mercury in dumps:

- Mercury must be stored separately from other waste;
- Tanks must be stored in suitably coated containment basins, to be cracks/fissures free and impermeable to metallic mercury, with a correct volume to contain the amount of mercury stored;
- The storage site must be provided with natural or artificial barriers to protect the environment from mercury emissions, with a correct volume to contain the total amount of mercury stored;
- The storage site floor must be covered with waterproof and mercury resistant material. A dedicated slope with catch basin must be provided;
- The storage site must be provided with fire protection system;
- Storage must be organized to ensure that all tanks are easily localizable.

The monitoring and managing requirements to be met (including emergencies), including the keeping of specific registers:

- Monitoring, inspection and emergency management: the storage site must be equipped with a mercury vapour control system and the tanks must be inspected by authorized personnel at least once a month. Protective equipment and emergency plans must be available in the site;
- Registers must be kept.

The Decree regulates the following aspects

- Mercury composition: The mercury content must be greater than 99.9% by weight and it should be verified the absence of impurities;
- Tanks: the tanks used for metallic mercury storage must be corrosion and impact resistant; welds must be avoided. Tanks must be carbon steel or stainless steel made, sealed to gases and liquids. Finally the outer walls must be resistant to the storage conditions;

- Admission procedure: tanks with a certificate of conformity are allowed only;
- Certificate: the certificate must state name and address of the waste producer, name and address of the filling person in charge, place and date of the filling, quantity of mercury, mercury purity degree, confirmation that the tanks were used exclusively for the mercury transportation and/or storage, tanks identification number.