

Keeping Mercury Dental Amalgam out of the Environment

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

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Mercury Policy in Connecticut

- 1998
 - EPA study shows high deposition of mercury in the northeast
 - Fish consumption advisories throughout Connecticut
 - Northeast Governors Resolution to “virtually eliminate mercury from the solid waste stream”
- 2002
 - Comprehensive mercury legislation passed In Connecticut
- 2003
 - Department and State Dental Association work together on Best Management Practices including amalgam separator requirement



WHY?

- To eliminate mercury from our waste stream since it is harmful to the environment.
- Dental amalgam is one of the leading sources of mercury in sewage sludge and can be released to the environment when the sludge is incinerated.



WHAT?

- **Mercury Education and Reduction Act**
Sections 22a-616(d) and 22a-622 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) concerning the management of elemental mercury and amalgam from dental practitioners.



HOW?

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) worked with the State Dental Association to develop Best Management Practices (BMP's) for mercury amalgam to help dental practitioners comply with the requirements of Sections 22a-616(d) and 22a-622 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS).



HOW?

2. DEEP also developed a Certification Form on which dental practitioners certify that their practice(s) or clinic(s) is in compliance with the state adopted BMPs. The [Certification Form and BMPs](#) are available on the DEEP website at www.ct.gov/deep/mercury.



WHO?

- All dental practitioners, who store, use, or otherwise handle mercury amalgam, must comply with the state BMPs. All dentists, hygienists and any other personnel in the practice or clinic need to be properly trained to follow the BMPs.
- Dental practices or clinics that do not place mercury amalgam but treat patients who have amalgam fillings in a manner that may release amalgam are required to follow the BMPs.



BMPs: For any dental practice that may discharge mercury amalgam

- Proper maintenance and disposal of amalgam, including capsules.
- Installation, maintenance of an amalgam separator meeting ISO standard 11143 and chair side traps and records of inspection shall be maintained on site.



BMPs: For any dental practice that may discharge mercury amalgam

- Amalgam substitutes should be used when appropriate.
- Each dental office shall make available to patients information about mercury-amalgam fillings and possible alternatives. At a minimum, the brochure *Fillings: The Choices You Have, Mercury Amalgam and Other Filling Materials* shall be displayed and remain prominently displayed in each office. This brochure is available on the Department website at www.ct.gov/deep/mercury.



Sample Inspection Forms/Logs

- Amalgam Separator Form/Log
 - Chair Side Trap Form/Log



Certification Form

You only need to submit a new Certification Form once, unless you have any changes indicated below then you need to resubmit a new Certification Form.

- Change in name, location or ownership interest of the dental practice or clinic; or
- Change in exempt status: if the practice changes from an exempt status to a nonexempt status or vice versa.



Looking to the Future

- Requesting dental practitioners electronically submit inspection logs in lieu of office visits
- Coordination with state and EPA requirements for amalgam management
- Electronic registration



Available on DEEP Website

www.ct.gov/deep/mercury

- BMPs
- Fillings Brochure
- Certification Form
- SAMPLE Amalgam Separator and Chair-Side Trap Forms
- Dental Fact Sheet



Contact Information

- Website: www.ct.gov/deep/mercury
- Questions on Registration
 - Bea Milne
 - 860-424-3003 or by email: beatriz.milne@ct.gov
- Questions on Best Management Practices
 - Tom Metzner
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