UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 30 2008

OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATION
AND RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Phasing out Mercury Filled Thermometers

FROM: Luis A. Luna
Assistant Administrator

TO: Assistant Administrators
Associate Administrators
Regional Administrators

Executive Order 13423 requires that federal agencies reduce the acquisition, use, and disposal of toxic and hazardous chemicals. In support of this requirement, I recently issued a set of Agencywide Environmental Management System Objectives, Targets, and Metrics that included a Chemical Management Target to reduce the use of mercury filled thermometers from a 2007 baseline.

Additionally, the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances has undertaken a specific initiative to help phase out mercury non-fever thermometers in industrial and laboratory settings. An important step in this initiative involves ensuring that EPA is accounting for and replacing all of its own mercury thermometers. The Office of Research and Development, in its recently issued internal directive (08-A-82-N), is requiring the elimination of mercury thermometers from the workplace. Each laboratory is to purchase replacement non-mercury thermometers as soon as possible and, by September 30, 2008, prepare a replacement schedule.

I applaud these Offices' efforts to eliminate mercury filled thermometers in their laboratories and I encourage all of you to undertake similar initiatives in the near future. EPA reports its progress in meeting the provisions of Executive Order 13423 biennially to the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive and the Office of Management and Budget. I hope the Agency can demonstrate a significant reduction in the presence of mercury thermometers in laboratories by the time of our next progress report in January 2009, and that we sustain this progress throughout the year. For your reference, attached is the Agency's 2007 baseline of mercury filled thermometers in use at EPA.

If you have any questions about this important initiative, please contact Howard Wilson, Acting Division Director for the Safety, Health and Environmental Management Division at 202-564-1640.

Attachment

cc: Deputy Assistant Administrators
Deputy Regional Administrators
Renee Page
Dennis J. Bushta
National Laboratory Directors
Regional Science and Technology Division Directors
Margo Oge
Elizabeth Cotsworth
Peter Murtha
Fred Hauchman
Howard Cantor

2007 Baseline Data on use of Mercury Filled Thermometer at EPA Locations

Location	Does Your Facility have Hg Filled Thermometers?	How many Hg Filled Thermometers Were On Site as of December 31, 2007?
Headquarters Washington, D.C., metro area	No	—
Region 1 Office Boston, MA	No	—
Region 1 Laboratory Chelmsford, MA	Yes	1
Region 2 Office New York City, NY	No	—
Region 2 Caribbean Field Office	Facility representatives have not submitted a questionnaire for this location yet. However, no Hg-containing thermometers have been reported for this location in past questionnaires.	
Region 2 Laboratory Edison, NJ	Yes	1
Region 3 Office Philadelphia, PA	No	—
Environmental Science Center (ESC) Fort Meade, MD • The Region 3 Laboratory • OPPTS	Yes	149
Region 3 Field Office Wheeling, WV	No	—
Region 4 Office Atlanta, GA	No	—
Region 4 Laboratory Athens, GA	Yes	10
Region 5 Office Chicago, IL	No	—
Region 5 Laboratory Chicago, IL	Yes	5
Region 6 Office Dallas, TX	No	—
Region 6 Laboratory Houston, TX	Yes	30
Region 7 Office Kansas City, KS	No	—
Region 7 Laboratory Kansas City, KS	Yes	48
Region 8 Office Denver, CO	No	—

2007 Baseline Data on use of Mercury Filled Thermometer at EPA Locations

Location	Does Your Facility have Hg Filled Thermometers?	How many Hg Filled Thermometers Were On Site as of December 31, 2007?
Region 8 Field Office Helena, MT	No	___
Region 8 Laboratory Golden, CO	Yes	2
Region 9 Office San Francisco, CA	No	___
Region 9 Laboratory Richmond, CA	Yes	8
Region 10 Office Seattle, WA	No	___
Region 10 Laboratory Port Orchard, WA	Yes	7
ORD-Narragansett Rhode Island	Yes	9
ORD-Gulf Breeze Florida	Yes	15
ORD-Athens Georgia	Yes	9
ORD-Ada Oklahoma	Yes	85
ORD-Duluth (MN) and **ORD-Grosse Ile** (MI)	No	___
ORD-Las Vegas Nevada	Yes	29
ORD-Corvallis Oregon	Yes	8
Research Triangle Park Complex North Carolina	No	___
Cincinnati facilities Ohio	Yes	9
OAR-Montgomery Alabama	Yes	26
OAR-Ann Arbor Michigan	Yes	75
OAR-Vegas Nevada	Yes	29
OPPTS-Bay St Louis Mississippi	Yes	45
NEIC Lakewood, CO	Yes	55