



Notification Number: 1997/477/F

Order on the elimination of amalgam waste from dental surgeries.

Date received : 04/08/1997

End of Standstill : 05/11/1997

Message

REP PERMANENTE ROYAUME UNI

REP PERMANENTE IRLANDE

REP PERMANENTE GRECE

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY
ATT. MR. Z.P. MAVROUKAS

HELLINIKOS ORG. TYPOPISOES
ATT. MR. MELAGRAKIS

DGS INTERNATIONAL BELGIUM

DEPT. OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, QUALITY AND EDUCATION DIVISION,
ATT. MRS. B. O'GRADY

INST INDUST RESEARCH.
ATT. MR. J. NULTY

KOMMERSKOLLEGIUM
ATT. MS. KERSTIN CARLSSON

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
ATT. MS. NIEMINEN

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION
ATT. MS. BAKKE-D'ALOYA

TELEX 002

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (97) D/51960/2
DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC, 88/182/EEC AND 94/10/EC
TRANSLATION OF TELEX 001



NOTIFICATION 97/0477/F

- 3B1 : 9701960.EN

1. Structured Information Line

TLX 002 IND- 97 0477 F-- EN ----- 970804 --- ---

2. Member State

France

3. Department Responsible

Secrétariat Général du Comité Interministériel pour les
Questions de Coopération Economique Européennes.
2 Bld. Diderot, F - 75012 PARIS

Délégué Interministériel aux Normes.
22 rue Monge, F - 75005 PARIS

3. Originating Department

Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité.
Direction Générale de la Santé.
Sous Direction de la Veille Sanitaire.
8 Av. de Ségur, F - 75350 PARIS.

4. Notification Number

97/0477/F

5. Title

Order on the elimination of amalgam waste from dental
surgeries.

6. Products Concerned

Amalgam separator

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

The aim of these regulatory measures is to enable the proper elimination of amalgam waste from dental surgeries. Waste water containing amalgam waste cannot be disposed of into the sewage network until it has been passed through an amalgam separator. Irrespective of the flow conditions, this separator must hold at least 95 % by weight of the amalgam contained in the waste water. This output is what shall be set by standard ISO WD 11 143 which is on the point of being adopted. The current estimated amount of mercury waste from dental surgeries is in the order of 10 tonnes. In addition to the recovery obligation, the Order states the methods for collecting and processing amalgam waste which are specified in the different annexes. The time period for installing



separators has been set at 3 years.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

Since mercury is a dangerous substance (Directive 67/6548/EC concerning the aligning of the legislative, regulatory and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances), its recovery, collection and processing are rendered mandatory in this text. In order to heighten awareness of the problem among the dental profession, the latter has been sent an information brochure entitled: "recovering mercury in dental amalgam...protecting health and the environment". This brochure summarises the mercury cycle, its effects on health and the solutions relating to the recovery and recycling of amalgam waste, and also announces future regulations. The dental profession in France has committed itself to this file. In this respect, measures have already been applied in several countries (Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, etc.).

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

a) List of reference texts

- Public Health Code, particularly articles R5152 and R5161;
- Amended Law no. 75-763 of 15 July 1975 on the elimination of waste and the recovery of materials;
- Amended Law no. 76-663 of 19 July 1976 on installations classed for the protection of the environment;
- Amended Law no 92-3 of 3 January 1992 on water;
- Decree no. 67-671 of 22 July 1967 amended by Decree no.

94-500 of 15 June 1994 regarding a professional code of ethics for dental surgeons;

- Decree no. 95-1000 of 6 September 1995 regarding a professional code of ethics for the medical profession;
- Decree no. 97-517 of 15 May 1997 relating to the classification of dangerous waste;
- Order of 20 April 1994 relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of substances;
- Order of 5 December 1996 relating to the transport of dangerous merchandise by road.

b) -

c) Brochure: "Recovering mercury in dental amalgam...protecting health and the environment"

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality

No

14. Fiscal measures

No

C. TROJAN
COMEUR
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