



Maryland Department of the Environment
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Baltimore, Maryland 21230
410-537-3000 toll free within Maryland 1-800-633-6101 x3314

February 6, 2002

To: Mercury Thermometer Manufacturers and Retailers

This letter is to inform you of legislative requirements in Maryland that are relevant to your industry of manufacturing, retailing or distributing mercury fever thermometers. Among these requirements is the prohibition on the sale and distribution of mercury fever thermometers in Maryland, except by prescription, beginning October 1, 2002. This prohibition does not apply to fever thermometers sold or provided for use in hospitals or other areas where professionals provide medical services. The prohibition also does not apply to digital thermometers containing mercury-added button cell batteries.

The law recognizes that mercury is a serious environmental and public health threat today. Your business plays a key role in protecting future generations by reducing the content of mercury in products and controlling the release of mercury into the environment.

To review the law in its entirety, please visit the Maryland General Assembly web site at <http://mlis.state.md.us/2001rs/billfile/HB0075.htm>. For fact sheets and general information on mercury, visit the Maryland Department of Environment's web site at www.mde.state.md.us or call Regina Rochez, Program Manager, Planning, Recycling and Outreach Program at 410-631-3314.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Collins, Director
Waste Management Administration