

Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) and mercury trade flow

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Abstract

In 2017, the Minamata Convention entered into force, in which the primary mining of mercury and the trade of mercury-containing products were regulated. However, as one of the most significant emission sources of mercury (Hg), the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) was not regulated. This may cause improper or illegal mercury trade to the ASGM sector, which hinders global mercury management. While enforcement on the monitoring of global mercury trade is necessary, the method for detecting potentially illegal mercury trade to ASGM does not exist. This study analyzes global trade data from 1995 to 2018 on more than 5000 categories of products among 231 countries and regions, and focuses on the instability of trade of mercury-containing products related to countries that have ASGM activities.

Keywords: mercury; Minamata Convention; mercury trade flow; mercury-containing products; ASGM