

FACT SHEET



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Mercury Switches Removed From End of Life Vehicles

Office of Program Support

(317) 232-8172 • (800) 988-7901

www.idem.IN.gov

100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Background:

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published national rules to reduce air emissions from iron and steel foundries, and electric arc furnaces. These rules require steel mills to reduce the amount of mercury they release into the air by purchasing scrap steel that does not contain mercury.
- One way to reduce the amount of mercury being released into the environment, by Indiana steel mills, is to remove mercury switches found in end of life vehicles during the dismantling and recycling process before the scrap steel is sent to the steel mill.
- To help reduce the amount of mercury in recycled steel and meet the federal standards, Indiana law (IC 13-20-17.7) requires motor vehicle recyclers to remove mercury switches from end of life vehicles.
- IDEM will pay vehicle recyclers for each mercury switch and each anti-lock braking system (ABS) sensor or other component containing more than 10 mg of mercury that is recycled through the National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program. IDEM will make these payments as long as money is available from the State of Indiana's Solid Waste Management Fund.
- Instructions on how to collect, store, transport, and recycle or properly dispose of mercury switches are provided to vehicle recyclers when they enroll in the program through End of Life Vehicle Solutions (ELVS).
- Participants must keep these records for at least three years:
 - 1) The number of end of life vehicles processed for recycling.
 - 2) The number of those vehicles that contained mercury switches.
 - 3) The number of mercury switches collected.

How to Remove, Store, and Recycle Mercury Switches:

- The only way to recycle vehicle mercury switches is to sign up with ELVS and request a recycling container (bucket) at www.elvsolutions.org or call ELVS at (877) 225-3587.
- The requirements for removing and storing mercury switches are found in the educational materials that ELVS provides with the recycling bucket. These educational materials explain which vehicles have mercury switches and where they're located. They also show how to safely remove, store, and ship mercury switches for recycling. The educational materials are also available on the ELVS website at www.elvsolutions.org.
- End of life vehicles that are received flattened, crushed, or baled or that are so badly damaged that the mercury switch cannot be removed without dismantling the vehicle are exempt from the requirements.
- The bucket provided by ELVS must be used to store the mercury switches. Mercury switches can be stored in the ELVS bucket for up to one (1) year. Place the universal waste label on the recycling bucket and follow the instructions provided.
- ABS sensors and other components containing more than 10 mg of mercury may also be collected and recycled under this program. Send these sensors for recycling along with the mercury switches. Do not disassemble ABS sensors or other components; store and ship them intact.
- When ELVS' partner US Ecology/The Environmental Quality Company (EQ) receives the recycling bucket, they will count the switches and send that information to ELVS. The number of switches in the recycling bucket will be posted on EQ's website, www.usecology.com/Services/Environmental-Services/Recycling/ELVS-Mercury-Switch-Program.aspx.

How to Ship Mercury Switches:

- To comply with the ELVS mercury minimization plan, you must use the ELVS bucket, the cardboard box, and labels provided by ELVS to ship the mercury switches to EQ and follow the shipping instructions provided with the recycling bucket. Please be sure to keep the cardboard box in which the recycling bucket was received to ship the bucket to EQ.
- Ship the recycling bucket in the cardboard box using the shipping labels provided by ELVS to comply with the U.S. Department of Transportation's hazardous materials shipping rules.
- Be sure to keep the shipping labels that came with the recycling bucket for use as needed. Using the shipping labels provided by ELVS to ship the recycling bucket to EQ is the only way ELVS will pay for shipping the switches. Without the shipping label you will be responsible for all shipping costs.

Payment for Mercury Switches:

- IDEM will pay **\$3.00** for each mercury switch and **\$5.00** for each ABS sensor or other component containing more than 10 mg of mercury that is recycled through ELVS. IDEM will make these payments as long as money is available from the State of Indiana's Solid Waste Management Fund.

How to Request Payment for Mercury Switches:

- Please submit **State Form 53238, Claim for Payment for Mercury Switches From End of Life Vehicles** (available at Forms.IN.gov), to IDEM to request payment for all mercury switches, ABS sensors, and other components containing more than 10 mg of mercury that were removed and sent to ELVS for recycling. Please include all the information requested on the form.
- Indiana law requires IDEM to pay using direct deposit. When sending your first claim for payment, complete and include:
 - **State Form 47551 – Automated Direct Deposit Authorization Agreement** (available at Forms.IN.gov)
 - **IRS Form W-9 – Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification** (available at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf).
- Send claims for payment to:

IDEM - Office of Program Support
ATTN: Mercury Switch Recovery Program
100 North Senate Avenue, IGCN 1316
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251
- Do not send the *Automated Direct Deposit Authorization Agreement* and the *Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification* forms directly to the Indiana Auditor of State. IDEM's financial staff will submit the form when the claim is processed.
- IDEM will verify the number of switches with EQ when processing the claim form.

More Information:

- For additional information on the National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program, please contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management at (800) 988-7901.
- To sign up for the program and to receive an initial recycling bucket, please contact ELVS at (877) 225-3587.
- To request a replacement recycling bucket, please contact EQ at (800) 495-6059.
- For additional information regarding automotive recycling, contact Automotive Recyclers of Indiana, Inc. at (505) 228-0401 or <http://indianaautorecyclers.com>.