

## ADIA Policy Statement –

<b>Policy</b>	<b>R7 – Product Regulation (Dental Amalgam Capture &amp; Recycling)</b>
<b>Statement</b>	The installation of dental amalgam separators and the processing of captured waste for recycling should be mandated.
<b>Principle/s</b>	That the release of dental amalgam containing mercury into wastewater represents a preventable source of environmental pollution.
<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Australian Dental Industry Association (ADIA) recognises reports from the World Health Organisation (WHO) which have noted that the mercury load in sewage systems, arising from the discharge of dental amalgam into wastewater, is due in-part to dental practice.</li> <li>▪ ADIA itself is agnostic on the continued use of dental amalgam, however the Association notes that the WHO has stated that dental amalgam remains a dental restorative material of choice, in the absence of an ideal alternative and the lack of evidence of alternatives as a better practice.</li> <li>▪ ADIA endorses the position of the Australian Dental Association (ADA) that states that the use of bulk elemental mercury, also referred to as liquid or raw mercury, is not recommended for use in dental clinics. Instead, precapsulated amalgam alloy should be used.</li> <li>▪ ADIA endorses the position of the ADA that states that amalgam separators which comply with ISO-11143 should be installed in all dental clinics.</li> <li>▪ ADIA believes that consistent with responsible waste management principles, dental amalgam containing mercury should be collected / sent to an appropriately credentialed recycling centre for processing.</li> <li>▪ The <i>Minamata Convention on Mercury</i> is an international treaty designed to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. It will permit the ongoing manufacture and use of dental amalgam within a framework that will reduce overall environmental emissions of mercury.</li> <li>▪ Australian signed the convention on 10 October 2013 and ratification is pending.</li> </ul>
<b>Framework Documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ADIA Advocacy Agenda</li> <li>▪ ADIA Stakeholder Engagement Strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Engagement &amp; Advocacy Partner/s</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Internal</u>: ADIA-DRC Dental Regulation Committee</li> <li>▪ <u>External</u>: Department of Environment (Australian Government).</li> </ul>
<b>Currency</b>	ADIA-DRC Endorsement: 28/1/2015      ADIA Board Approval: 18/2/2015 (Reference 1.9.2)



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