Kemtrak Mercury Free Statement

Nov 19, 2026

The EU is banning mercury-containing lamps where safe alternatives exist (1), and the current exemption for mercury UV lamps expires on 24 February 2027 (2). Mercury is toxic to people and the environment, and EU policy under the Minamata Convention and the Zero Pollution Ambition (3) is steadily removing its remaining intentional uses.

We believe the transition to green technology is essential, and the best time to start is now.

Where EU rules stand

EU mercury restrictions are tightening, and the status of mercury UV lamps in process analyzers is under review.

- **Decided:** Regulation (EU) 2024/1849 (1) prohibits the manufacture, import and export of further mercury-containing lamp types, mainly for general lighting, from the end of 2025 and the end of 2026.
- **Pending:** the RoHS exemptions that allow mercury in UV lamps (4(a)-I, 4(f)-IV, 1(f)-I and 2(b)(4)-II) (4) are valid until 24 February 2027. Renewal was requested in August 2025, and no decision had been published at the time of writing (5), November 2026.
- **If renewal is refused:** the exemption ends only after a transition period of 12 to 18 months. Until the Commission decides, existing exemptions remain valid.

The Commission may renew, shorten or refuse these exemptions, and they are only granted where mercury cannot technically be replaced. UVC LEDs were designed to replace mercury UVC lamps (6), so that test is increasingly hard to meet. Mercury lamps have no future in process instrumentation.

Remove mercury from your plant now

Removing mercury, a hazardous substance, from the workplace protects your people and the environment. Mercury-free instruments are also the right choice under every regulatory outcome: if the exemptions are renewed you lose nothing, and if they are not, you are already compliant and your process monitoring continues without interruption.

Protect your brand and your liability position. If a mercury lamp breaks in or near a process area, the consequences can include contaminated product, recalls, claims from employees and customers, and lasting damage to your brand. For biopharma manufacturers, where product purity and patient safety come first, the stakes are especially high. Mercury-free instruments eliminate that risk at its source.

Waiting also carries three practical risks:

- **Lead time.** Selecting, qualifying and integrating a process analyzer takes months. The transition window after a refusal is short for a plant-wide change.
- **Validation.** In regulated industries such as biopharma and food and beverage, replacing an instrument mid-life means requalification and possible downtime. Doing it on your own schedule is far cheaper than doing it under deadline.
- **Service life.** An instrument installed today stays in service for many years. Mercury lamps for that instrument could become harder to source during that time, and every supplier will be competing for the same change at once.

Kemtrak: a mercury-free portfolio

Kemtrak is the industry leader and pioneer in LED-based, mercury-free process photometers. We introduced the first one almost 20 years ago, and we have never used a mercury-containing light source in any of our products. None of our analyzers contains a measurable quantity of mercury. Our photometers use LED and xenon light sources, including the flagship DCP007 and new SPECTRA platforms. Neither contains mercury, so no mercury handling, transport or disposal rules apply. If you still run mercury-based analyzers, we encourage you to transition to a mercury-free future with Kemtrak. Our products comply with the RoHS Directive 2011/65/EU (7) as amended, including Delegated Directive (EU) 2015/863 (8) and Directive (EU) 2017/2102 (9).

To discuss mercury-free options for your process, contact info@kemtrak.com or your local Kemtrak distributor.

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1. Regulation (EU) 2024/1849: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1849/oj/eng
2. Opsytec, RoHS and UV lamps: https://www.opsytec.com/uv-knowledge/safety-standards-regulation/rohs-and-uv-lamps-current-regulations-and-developments
3. European Commission, Zero Pollution Action Plan: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/zero-pollution-action-plan_en
4. LightingEurope, RoHS lamp exemptions (September 2025): https://www.lightingeurope.org/images/LightingEurope_-_RoHS_Statement_-_20250922_-_updated.pdf
5. UV Alliance, status of the mercury UV lamp RoHS renewal: https://www.uv-alliance.com/uv-blog/blogs/prolongation-mercury-containing-uv-lamps/
6. Vishay UVC LED, designed to replace mercury UVC lamps: https://compoundsemiconductor.net/article/106372/Vishay_Launches_Longlife_UVC_LED

7. Directive 2011/65/EU (RoHS): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:174:0088:0110:en:PDF
8. Delegated Directive (EU) 2015/863: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015L0863&from=EN
9. Directive (EU) 2017/2102: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017L2102