



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## Mercury Switches Removed from End of Life Vehicles

[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

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### Background:

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 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 ABS sensor or other component containing more than ten (10) mg of mercury that is recycled through this program. IDEM will make these payments as long as money is available from the State's solid waste management fund.
- Instructions on how to collect, store, transport and recycle or properly dispose of the mercury switches are provided to vehicle recyclers when they enroll in the National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program through End of Life Vehicle Solutions (ELVS).
- Records must be kept for: 1) the number of end of life vehicles processed for recycling; 2) the number of those vehicles that contained mercury switches; and 3) the number of mercury switches collected, for at least three (3) years.

### How to remove, store and recycle mercury switches:

- The only way to recycle vehicle mercury switches is to sign up with End of Life Vehicle Solutions (ELVS) and request a recycling container (bucket) at <http://www.elvsolutions.org/contact.html> or call ELVS at (877) 225-ELVS (225-3587).
- The requirements for removing and storing mercury switches are found in the educational materials supplied with the recycling bucket provided by ELVS. 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 <http://www.elvsolutions.org/educational.html>.
- Mercury switches from vehicles that are flattened, crushed or baled or from vehicles 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 ten (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 the mercury recycler 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 the Environmental Quality Company Web site at <http://www.egonline.com/services/ELVS-Mercury-Switch-Recovery-Program.asp>.



### **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 the recycling facility and follow the shipping instructions provided with the recycling bucket. Be sure to keep the cardboard box in which the recycling bucket was received in order to ship the bucket to the mercury recycler. Ship the recycling bucket in the cardboard box using the shipping labels provided by ELVS to comply with U.S. Department of Transportation's hazardous materials shipping rules.
- Be sure to keep the shipping labels that came in the recycling bucket. Using the shipping labels provided by ELVS to ship the recycling bucket to the mercury recycling facility is the only way ELVS will pay for shipping the switches. Without the shipping label you will be responsible for all shipping costs.

### **How much will IDEM pay 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 ten (10) mg of mercury that is recycled through ELVS. IDEM will make these payments as long as money is available from the State's solid waste management fund.

### **How to request payment for mercury switches:**

- A claim for payment may be submitted to IDEM for all mercury switches, ABS sensors and other components, containing more than ten (10) mg of mercury, which have been removed and sent to ELVS for recycling.
- Use State Form 53238, Claim for Payment for Mercury Switches from End of Life Vehicles, to request payment. 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, a Vendor Information Form (State Form 53788) must be included.
- Send claims for payment to:  
IDEM Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance  
ATTN: Mercury Switch Program  
100 North Senate Avenue, IGCS W041, MC 64-01  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251
- Do not send the Vendor Information Form directly to the Auditor of State. IDEM's financial staff will submit the form when the claim is processed.
- IDEM will verify the number of switches with the Environmental Quality Company when processing the claim form.

### **Where to get claim forms:**

- Claim for Payment for Mercury Switches from End of Life Vehicles Form (SF 53238): <http://www.in.gov/icpr/webfile/formsdiv/53238.pdf>
- Vendor Information Form (SF 53788): <http://www.in.gov/icpr/webfile/formsdiv/53788.pdf>

### **Who to contact for more information:**

- For additional information on the Mercury Switch 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 End of Life Vehicle Solutions at (877) 225-3587.
- To request a replacement recycling bucket, please contact the Environmental Quality Company at (734) 547-2511.
- For additional information regarding automotive recycling, contact Automotive Recyclers of Indiana, Inc. at (877) 880-2874.

