# Mercury

**What is Mercury?**
Mercury is a naturally occurring element present in the environment. It is a metal which is liquid at room temperature and combines easily with other metals and expands and contracts with temperature changes. Because of these properties, mercury has been used in many household, medical and industrial products.

**Concerns with Mercury Use**
Multiple web sites provide information about the use, release of and exposure to mercury as well as efforts to reduce releases and exposures. Some of these informative web sites are listed here:
o	US EPA
  -	http://www.epa.gov/mercury/
o	European Commission
  -	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/mercury/index_en.htm
o	United Nations
  -	https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/mercury
o	Northeast Waste Management Officials Association (NEWMOA)
  -	http://www.newmoa.org/prevention/mercury/

**Use of Mercury in IBM Products**
IBM sets environmental standards for product design through engineering specifications. These specifications are communicated to the supply chain vendors for parts. They cover substances prohibited from use, documentation of product content and other requirements. Mercury is listed as prohibited from use in IBM parts and products except for certain necessary applications where substitutes are not available. These specifications are found at: https://www.ibm.com/about/environment/product-design

Mercury is currently necessary in applications such as lamps, specifically those needed in flat panel monitors, laptop computers, scanner options for printers, and digital projectors. In addition, cryptographic coprocessor cards, which are used for data security purposes, require a mercury catalyst for production. These products are labeled to notify customers of the presence of the mercury compounds and to help ensure proper disposal.

**Recycling and Return Programs**

Products which contain mercury should be handled at the end of their useful life in a manner to prevent the release of mercury into the environment. IBM is committed to the recycling and appropriate end of life management of its products and offers a return program for the cryptographic coprocessor cards.  For more details about how to return the cards to IBM, please contact prodinfo@us.ibm.com.

Part numbers included in this return program are:
04K8979
04K9127
04K9128
04K9353
10J0077
10J0357
10J0410
10J0688
11P0869
11P1004
11P1925
11P4398
12R1686
12R6539
12R6540
12R6759
12R6853
16R0126
16R0962
40H9951
40H9952
40H9954
60G7520
60G7549