

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** 09/23/10

**TO:** POWTS Plan Reviewers  
Wastewater Specialists  
County Code Administrators  
Interested Parties

**FROM:** Roman A. Kaminski, Program Manager  
715.345.5334 – *voice* 715.345.5269 – *fax*  
[roman.kaminski@wi.gov](mailto:roman.kaminski@wi.gov) – *e-mail*

**SUBJECT:** 2009 Wisconsin Act 44 – Mercury Ban  
POWTS Component Availability - Online

Just a reminder - the provisions of 2009 Wisconsin Act 44 take effect on October 01, 2010. [<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2009/data/acts/09Act44.pdf>] This legislation restricts the sale and use of mercury. Specifically, the use of mercury will be prohibited in a variety of products including certain POWTS related components such as float switches that are installed on or after the effective date.

It appears that major POWTS electrical component manufacturers have been aware of this legislation since it was adopted in late 2009 and have made appropriate adjustments to the inventory they have available for sale through supply houses in Wisconsin.

However, there are now online shopping opportunities for POWTS related components too. These websites cater to clientele throughout the United States and around the world. These types of sites may offer POWTS products for sale that may not be approved (or legal) in Wisconsin but are acceptable for use elsewhere. Float switches that contain mercury are an example of a product that will not be legal in Wisconsin after October 01, 2010 but that can be sold to customers for installation in locations besides Wisconsin.

We will be posting this reminder on our website. Also, Commerce sponsored training later this year will include information related to this issue. However, please feel free to circulate this document as deemed appropriate to help remind interested parties of the upcoming mercury ban and that products used in POWTS installation in Wisconsin, regardless of where they are purchased must conform to the standards and specifications of chapters Comm 82, Comm 83, and Comm 84 and chapter 145 Wis. Stats.

Thanks!