

Please, find and take into your account my statement as support of the request of exemption for mercury-containing UV lamps for the maximum validity periods.

As an official partner of company Heidelberg AG, a leading manufacturer of printing machinery based in Germany, and Gallus Ferd, a leading manufacturer of label printing machines located in Switzerland, I have been supplying, over the past 2 decades, dozens of small, medium and big printing factories in Greece with original printing equipment and machines. A significant percentage of the sold equipment is using curing systems with conventional mercury-containing UV lamps.

A ban of UV lamps in the near future would put the majority of my customers in an extremely difficult situation, some of them with existential risk for their activity.

If UV lamps wouldn't be available on the market anymore, my customers would be forced either to dismantle their machinery with the related amount of additional waste (machines, equipment and consumable that need to be decommissioned), or to face heavy investment costs to upgrade – if and where technically possibly – the machines with alternatives such as UV LED, considering that UV LED, despite offering some interesting benefit, does still have a number of technical limitations and does not cover all application properties required by the industry: direct replacement (exchanging only the lamp) is in most cases technologically not possible.

Therefore, the use of mercury lamps will still be needed for several years, because the normal depreciation of our printing machinery and equipment is very long

A short-term ban for mercury-containing UV lamps would lead to many work places in our region.

Professional with 20+ years of experience in the field of printing machinery and equipment

Answer provided as is by Sakis Athanasiadis on behalf of HEIDELBERG HELLAS A.E.E. on the 27th of May 2021.