



## Discontinuation Notice

### Repair service for roller heads containing mercury

In order to comply with the Minamata Convention on Mercury and following the restrictions on the import and export of mercury from Switzerland, Soudronic will discontinue the repair service for mercury roller heads as of June 30, 2023.

Soudronic will no longer remove or dispose of mercury from roller heads for environmental and economic reasons. The Swiss restrictions on import and export of mercury lead to a disproportionate administrative burden for both parties, Soudronic and customers, and require cost-intensive special transportation for hazardous materials.

Therefore, mercury roller heads will not be further developed, and we will stop conducting expert assessments and crack tests of the components.

### Mercury-free DISCON roller heads

We strongly recommend converting your welder to DISCON. Mercury is no longer required as medium for transferring current from the stationary part to the rotating outer part of the welding roller heads. Sliding contacts replace the liquid-contact technology and make the product environmentally friendly and easily disposable. The DISCON emulsion used in the DISCON roller heads is an FDA-approved coolant and lubricant.

The DISCON roller head material undergoes extensive microstructural testing to ensure high performance and uniform quality. Soudronic is focused on further developing these products and offering analysis and warranty services to increase productivity.

Take the first step today towards a future free of toxic substances and convert your welders to DISCON. Please contact our Spare Parts and Retrofit Departments for an individual quotation.

## Additional information

### *Notification of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment*

The Swiss Federal Council has issued new regulations on the export of mercury from Switzerland with the ordinance of October 25, 2017, amending the Chemical Risk Reduction Ordinance (ChemRRV; SR 814.81). These regulations also include extensive restrictions on the export of mercury, which is only allowed for a limited number of uses (analysis and research purposes, production of discharge lamps, maintenance of roll seam welders working with mercury-containing roll heads, production of dental amalgam capsules) and



must be approved by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) upon application. These regulations on mercury can be found in Annex 1.7 of the ChemRRV. The export license requirement for mercury has been in force since July 1, 2018. For the processing of applications and the granting of export licenses, a fee must be paid, which is calculated according to the expenses of the authority and amounts to several hundred Swiss francs.

For Soudronic AG and its customers, this means that for every shipment of mercury to a customer outside Switzerland, an export application for filling roller heads used in roller seam welders must be submitted to the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN). The application documents must include a written confirmation from the customer, in which he undertakes to use the supplied mercury exclusively for the maintenance of roll seam welders that work with mercury-containing roll heads. In addition, the competent authority of the importing country must agree to the import of the mercury.

### Minamata Convention on Mercury

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. The negotiations of the new convention started in June 2009 and were successfully concluded in Geneva in January 2013. In the meantime, the Minamata Convention on Mercury has been signed by 128 countries.

A key element of the Minamata Convention is to ban products containing mercury for which equivalent alternatives already exist. From 2020 this ban will apply, for example, to mercury-containing batteries, switches and relays, certain types of lamps, measuring devices such as barometers, pressure gauges, thermometers, and sphygmomanometers.

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