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Mercury transformation mechanisms and speciation profiles are reviewed for mercury formed in and released from flue gases of coal-fired boilers, non-ferrous metal smelters, cement plants, iron and steel plants, municipal solid waste incinerators, and biomass burning. Mercury in coal, ores and other raw materials is released to flue gases in the form of Hg^0 during combustion or smelting in boilers, kilns or furnaces. Decreasing temperature from over 800°C to below 300°C in flue gases leaving boilers, kilns or furnaces promotes homogeneous and heterogeneous oxidation of gaseous elemental mercury (Hg^0) to gaseous divalent mercury (Hg^{2+}), with a portion of Hg^{2+} adsorbed onto fly ash to form particulate-bound mercury (Hg_p). Halogen is the primary oxidizer for Hg^0 in flue gases, and active components (e.g., TiO_2 , Fe_2O_3 , etc.) on fly ash promote heterogeneous oxidation and adsorption processes. In addition to mercury removal, mercury transformation also occurs when passing through air pollution control devices (APCDs), affecting the mercury speciation in flue gases. In coal-fired power plants, selective catalytic reduction (SCR) system promotes mercury oxidation by 34–85 %, electrostatic precipitator (ESP) and fabric filter (FF) remove over 99 % of Hg_p , and wet flue gas desulfurization system (WFGD) captures 60–95 % of Hg^{2+} . In non-ferrous metal smelters, most Hg^0 is converted to Hg^{2+} and removed in acid plants (APs). For cement clinker production, mercury cycling and operational conditions promote heterogeneous mercury oxidation and adsorption. The mercury speciation profiles in flue gases emitted to the atmosphere are determined by transformation mechanisms and mercury removal efficiencies by various APCDs. For all the sectors reviewed in this study, Hg_p accounts for less than 5 % in flue gases. In China, mercury emission has a higher Hg^0 fraction (66–82 % of total mercury) in flue gases from coal combustion, in contrast to a greater Hg^{2+} fraction (29–90 %) from non-ferrous metal smelting, cement and iron/steel production. The higher Hg^{2+} fractions shown here than previous estimates may imply stronger local environmental impacts than previously thought, caused by mercury emissions in East Asia. Future research should focus on determining mer-

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particle size positively correlated with both the Hg^0 oxidation and the Hg^{2+} adsorption. Inorganic components such as CuO , TiO_2 and Fe_2O_3 also have significant impacts on the mercury oxidation and adsorption processes (Dunham et al., 2003; Norton et al., 2003; López-Antón et al., 2007).

According to 30 previous on-site measurements in coal-fired power plants and industrial boilers (Kellie et al., 2004; Duan et al., 2005; Lee et al., 2006; Zhou et al., 2006, 2008; Chen et al., 2007, 2008; Yang et al., 2007; Wang et al., 2008, 2010a; Kim et al., 2010b; Zhang et al., 2012a; L. Zhang et al., 2013a), mercury speciation after the boiler and before the APCDs is mainly determined by coal properties, specifically chlorine, mercury and ash contents in coal. Chlorine and mercury contents have the most significant impacts on the percentage of Hg^{2+} in total mercury, while mercury and ash contents highly influence the proportion of Hg_p in total mercury in flue gas. The proportions of Hg^0 , Hg^{2+} and Hg_p in the flue gas released from a pulverized-coal (PC) boiler, averaged 56, 34 and 10 %, respectively. However, Hg^{2+} proportion ranged from 5 to 82 % while Hg_p proportion ranged from 1 to 28 %. Besides the coal properties, the boiler type also affects mercury speciation in flue gas. A circulating fluidized bed (CFB) boiler can generate as high as 65 % of Hg_p in flue gas due to more sufficient contact between gaseous phase mercury and fly ash inside the boiler (Zhang, 2012).

2.2 Mercury transformation across APCDs for coal combustion

2.2.1 Mercury transformation during selective catalytic reduction (SCR)

Figure 1 shows mercury transformation and removal processes across APCDs in coal-fired power plants. The first APCD after the boiler could be the SCR system if applied for NO_x control. The operation temperature in a SCR is typically 300–400 °C. SCR catalysts, usually composed of V_2O_5 , WO_3 and TiO_2 , significantly promote the Hg^0 oxidation process and increase Hg^{2+} level for downstream removal in PM and SO_2 control devices (Niksa and Fujiwara, 2005). Laboratory-scale studies (Lee et al., 2003;

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Some plants apply ESP-FF hybrid precipitator to improve the fine particle removal efficiency. Limited studies suggested an overall mercury removal rate of 39 % in ESP-FF hybrid precipitator (S. X. Wang et al., 2014).

2.2.4 Mercury transformation in wet scrubber (WS)

Coal-fired industrial boilers are usually in a smaller scale compared with the utility boilers. The PM control for industrial boilers are not as advanced as those for power plants in developing countries. For example, WS is most widely adopted in China's industrial boilers. The proportion of Hg_p in flue gas of industrial boilers (1–3 %) is not as high as that of power plants because of the shorter formation times of Hg_p in industrial boilers, especially in small-scale ones. Consequently, the Hg_p removal rate of WS is only about 50 % (Zhang, 2012). SO_2 in flue gas can dissolve in water and form SO_3^{2-} , which could be a reducing agent for Hg^{2+} , leading to low Hg^{2+} capture rates in WS (Chang and Ghorishi, 2003; Omine et al., 2012). The overall mercury removal rate of WS is 23 % on average with a range of 7–59 % (Zhang, 2012).

2.2.5 Mercury transformation during wet flue gas desulfurization (WFGD)

WFGD is the most widely used APCD for SO_2 control in coal-fired power plants. During sulfur (mainly SO_2) scrubbing process, Hg^{2+} is also removed in WFGD. The average mercury removal efficiency of WFGD is 64 %, ranging from 56 to 88 % (Lee et al., 2006; Chen et al., 2007; Kim et al., 2010b; Wang et al., 2010a). Insoluble Hg^0 passes through WFGD without being captured. Similar to that in WS, chemical reduction of the dissolved Hg^{2+} reduces total mercury removal efficiency in WFGD due to re-volatilization of Hg^0 (Wo et al., 2009; Ochoa-Gonzalez et al., 2013). Flue gas and slurry composition, operating temperature, limestone injection rate, and slurry pH are the key factors affecting the re-volatilization of Hg^0 (AcunPa-Caro et al., 2009; Ochoa-Gonzalez et al., 2012; Schuetze et al., 2012). WFGD is the crucial step in the co-benefit mercury control technologies in coal-fired power plants. The applications of high-chlorine coal,

SCR and halogen addition can increase the Hg^{2+} proportion in flue gas before WFGD. Therefore, the optimized strategy for WFGD is to stabilize the Hg^{2+} in the WFGD slurry to prevent mercury re-volatilization. The overall mercury removal efficiency of WFGD is on average 45 % with a range of 10–85 % (Yokoyama et al., 2000; Kilgroe et al., 2002; Ito et al., 2006; Lee et al., 2006; Meij and Winkel, 2006; Chen et al., 2007; Kim et al., 2010b; Wang et al., 2010a).

2.3 Mercury speciation profile for coal-fired boilers

Mercury speciation profiles in the flue gas from coal combustion are summarized in Table 1, which considers the transformation of mercury species across different types of APCDs. When no APCD is applied, mercury speciation profile has the largest variability due to the different properties of coal burned. The average proportions of Hg_p are all below 2 % when PM control devices are installed. As commonly used for stoker-fired (SF) industrial boilers, WS removes a large proportion of Hg_p and a small proportion of Hg^{2+} , resulting in a decrease of Hg_p percentage and a slight increase of Hg^0 percentage compared with the case of non-control. The average percentages of Hg^0 and Hg^{2+} in the flue gas exhausted from ESP are 58 and 41 %, respectively. The presence of CFB boiler can increase the proportion of Hg^0 . The proportions of Hg^0 and Hg^{2+} are similar in the flue gas after FF, although with large variability. For the combination of ESP + WFGD, the proportion of Hg^0 reaches as high as 84 %. With the existence of SCR, the average proportion of Hg^0 is not as high as that for the combination of ESP + WFGD because of the high oxidation rate of Hg^0 inside SCR. Large uncertainties still exist in flue gas from the combinations of PC + FF, PC + FF + WFGD and CFB + ESP, since scarce speciation data is available.

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is usually under 100 °C. Results from temperature programmed decomposition (TPD) experiments indicate that mercury is not released from gypsum at such temperatures (Rallo et al., 2010; López-Antón et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2013). Therefore, we only consider the clinker production process that includes shaft kilns, wet rotary kilns, dry rotary kilns and precalciner processes.

Precalciner process is usually composed of the raw mill system, the coal mill system, the kiln system and the kiln head system. Raw materials are ground and homogenized in the raw mill system, and the high-temperature flue gas generated in the kiln system is used to preheat raw materials. The fuel, usually coal, is prepared in the coal mill system including coal mill and FF. The flue gas from the kiln system is also used to preheat coal. The kiln system for the production of cement clinker includes the preheater, the precalciner and the rotary kiln. The prepared raw materials, namely raw meal, enter the kiln system from one end of rotary kiln (kiln tail), and the coal powder is brought into the kiln system by air from the other kiln end (kiln head). The solid materials flow in opposite direction with the flue gas. The flue gas from kiln head is de-dusted and then emitted into the atmosphere.

4.2 Mercury behavior in cement clinker production process

Mercury behavior in the precalciner clinker production process is more complicated than that in coal-fired power plants. Flue gas generated in the kiln system is usually divided into two parts and used to preheat raw materials and coal, respectively. Mercury in flue gas can be adsorbed onto the surface of raw materials or coal, and then recycled into the kiln system. The dust collectors, usually FF, installed after raw mill or coal mill can capture a large part of mercury in flue gas. However, since the dust collected in precalciner cement production process is often recycled into the kiln system rather than disposed, the mercury removed from FF is recirculated into kiln system with dust. The flue gas generated from kiln head flows through a dust collector, usually ESP, and then emits into the atmosphere. The collected dust at the kiln head is also mixed with raw materials and recycled into the kiln system. Therefore, there are three mercury cycles in

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was applied in Streets et al. (2005). However, oxidized mercury was found to be the predominant species in our recent study (Wang et al., 2015). The proportion of Hg^{2+} in flue gas reached as high as 59–73% and the proportion of Hg_p was under the detection limit because of the installation of ESPs for the examined iron and steel plants (Wang et al., 2015). The high PM concentration in flue gas and Fe on PM could promote mercury oxidation in flue gas. More field tests need to be conducted on mercury speciation profile of this industry in the future.

6 Mercury speciation and transformation in flue gas from other emission sources

Municipal solid waste (MSW) incineration is a potential predominant source in the global mercury emission inventory. A significant proportion of mercury (80–96%) in the MSW releases from the incinerator into the flue gas is in the form of Hg^0 at 850–1000 °C (Park et al., 2008). Grate furnace combustor (GFC) and circulation fluidized bed combustor (CFBC) are the two most commonly used incinerators. The flue gas from CFBC has a larger proportion of Hg_p than that from GFC. Typical APCDs are combinations of semi-dry or dry flue gas deacidification (SD-FGD or D-FGD) for SO_2 and HCl removal, activated carbon injection (ACI) for dioxin removal and ESP/FF for PM removal. The overall mercury removal efficiency of the APCDs for MSW incineration ranges from 60 to over 99% (Zhang et al., 2008; Takahashi et al., 2010). ACI is required in China for the control of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). High Cl content in MSW results in high Hg^{2+} proportion in flue gas. Limestone slurry sprayed in SD-FGD absorbs a large amount of Hg^{2+} and activated carbon adsorbs a large amount of both Hg^0 and Hg^{2+} . Particles from SD-FGD and ACI are captured by the downstream FF. Previous studies in Europe and the USA (Pacyna and Münch, 1991; Carpi, 1997) indicated that the Hg^{2+} proportion in exhausted flue gas ranges from 75 to 85%. A Korean study found the Hg^{2+} proportion to be in the range of 78–99% (Park et al., 2008). Based on eight on-site measurements in China, Chen et al. (2013) found that average Hg^{2+} proportion

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in the flue gas from the outlet of GFC + SD-FGD + ACI + FF is 96 %, while that from the outlet of CFBC + SD-FGD + ACI + FF is 64 %.

Biomass burning has attracted increasing global attention. Biomass can be divided into fuel wood, crop residues and biomass pellets. Usually, there is no APCD for biomass burning. Wei (2012) found that Hg^0 in flue gas from biomass burning is 70–90 % of total mercury while that of Hg^{2+} ranges from 5 to 9 %. Hg_p proportion differs a lot between different biomass fuel types: 12, 25 and 1 % for fuel wood, crop residues and biomass pellets, respectively. Hu et al. (2012) differentiated the emission factors for biomass burning and cooking/heating in rural areas to be 0.035 and 0.515 g $Hg\ t^{-1}$ biomass burned, respectively. W. Zhang et al. (2013) tested 25 types of fuel wood, 8 types of crop residues and 2 types of biomass pellets, and found that the mercury release rate during biomass burning is 78–99 %. The mercury speciation profile (ratio of Hg^0 , Hg^{2+} and Hg_p to total Hg) for fuel wood was 76, 6 and 18 %, and that for crop residue was similar (73, 4 and 23 %). However, the speciation profile for biomass pellets is quite different. Due to the more complete combustion, Hg^0 accounts for as high as 97 % in the flue gas from of biomass pellets combustion. W. Zhang et al. (2013) calculated mercury emission from biomass burning in China and gave the shares of Hg^0 , Hg^{2+} and Hg_p at 74, 5 and 21 %, respectively.

7 Comparison of mercury speciation profiles in different countries and regions

Table 4 summarizes the sectoral mercury speciation profiles in different countries and regions (Pacyna et al., 2006; AMAP/UNEP, 2008; Chrystall and Rumsby, 2009; Kim et al., 2010a; Lin et al., 2012; Nelson et al., 2012; Zhang et al., 2015). China and South Korea have compiled extensive speciation profiles based on observational data collected at anthropogenic mercury emission sources. The inventories for Europe and New Zealand used same speciation data as the global inventory for coal combustion, which is close to the results of South Korea. China has different speciation data for coal combustion, where the proportion of Hg^0 is higher than that reported in other

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components and high PM concentrations in flue gases are the two primary causes. Flue gas purification systems and processes in acid plants for non-ferrous metal smelting contribute to the largest amount of mercury removal in non-ferrous metal smelters. Specific mercury reclaiming tower in non-ferrous metal smelters preferentially releases Hg^0 to downstream flue gases. The key to mercury emission controls in cement plants is to break the mercury cycling processes during the dust recirculation for the kiln, raw mill and coal mill. Since Hg^{2+} dominates the mercury speciation of emissions from cement plants and iron and steel plants, WS or WFGD could be implemented for mercury abatement.

Mercury speciation profiles for key sources reported in recent studies are significantly different from those obtained in early studies. This is partially because the APCDs used in these sources have advanced in the past two decades. Another reason lies in the lack of on-site measurements in early emission estimates where certain speciation profiles were assumed. Adoption of different APCDs and use of different fuels or raw materials cause distinct differences found in mercury speciation profiles applied in different countries or regions. Large proportion of Hg^{2+} from non-ferrous metal smelters, cement plants and iron and steel plants calls for local attention. There are still large uncertainties in the speciation profiles at key sources, such as iron and steel plants, waste incineration and biomass burning. More on-site measurements for these sources should be carried out to complete the database of mercury emission speciation. Research is also needed in understanding the mechanism of mercury oxidation and adsorption in flue gases with different compositions, which benefits mercury emission controls. Accurate speciation profiles improve the performance of regional transport and dispersion models to better assess the environmental impacts of mercury emissions into the atmosphere.

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Table 4. Comparison of sectoral mercury speciation profiles for different countries and regions (%).

Countries or regions Inventory year Mercury emission source	Global 2005			China 2010			South Korea 2007			Europe 2000			USA 2005			Australia 2006			New Zealand 2008		
	Hg ⁰	Hg ²⁺	Hg _p	Hg ⁰	Hg ²⁺	Hg _p	Hg ⁰	Hg ²⁺	Hg _p	Hg ⁰	Hg ²⁺	Hg _p	Hg ⁰	Hg ²⁺	Hg _p	Hg ⁰	Hg ²⁺	Hg _p	Hg ⁰	Hg ²⁺	Hg _p
Coal-fired power plants	50	40	10	79	21	0	47	46	7	50	40	10	57	40	4	77	17	6	50	40	10
Industrial coal combustion	50	40	10	66	32	2				50	40	10							50	40	10
Residential coal combustion	50	40	10	82	17	1				50	40	10							50	40	10
Stationary oil combustion	50	50	0	50	40	10	23	10	68	50	50	0	61	28	12	77	17	6			
Mobile oil combustion	50	50	0	50	40	10	87	13	0	50	50	0	61	28	12	77	17	6			
Biomass fuel combustion	80	15	5	74	5	21															
Municipal solid waste incineration	20	60	20	96	0	4	36	61	3	25	58	17	61	28	12	77	17	6			
Cremation	80	15	5	96	0	4	65	12	23							80	10	10			
Zinc smelting	80	15	5	30	65	5	73	11	16	75	13	13	61	26	13	77	17	6	80	15	5
Lead smelting	80	15	5	57	38	5	38	8	54	75	13	13	61	26	13	77	17	6	80	15	5
Copper smelting	80	15	5	47	48	5	28	38	34	75	13	13	61	26	13	77	17	6	80	15	5
Large-scale gold production	80	15	5	80	15	5										77	17	6			
Artisanal and small-scale gold mining	100	0	0	80	15	5										77	17	6			
Mercury production	80	20	0	80	15	5										77	17	6	80	15	5
Cement production	80	15	5	34	65	1	83	16	1	80	17	3				77	17	6	80	15	5
Iron and steel production	80	15	5	34	66	0	15	80	5	83	17	0	80	10	9	77	17	6	80	15	5
Chlor-alkali production	70	30	0	100	0	0				70	30	0				77	17	6			
References	AMAP/UNEP (2008) Pacyna et al. (2006)			Zhang et al. (2015)			Kim et al. (2010b)			Pacyna et al. (2006)			Lin et al. (2012)			Nelson et al. (2012)			Chrystall and Rumsby (2009)		

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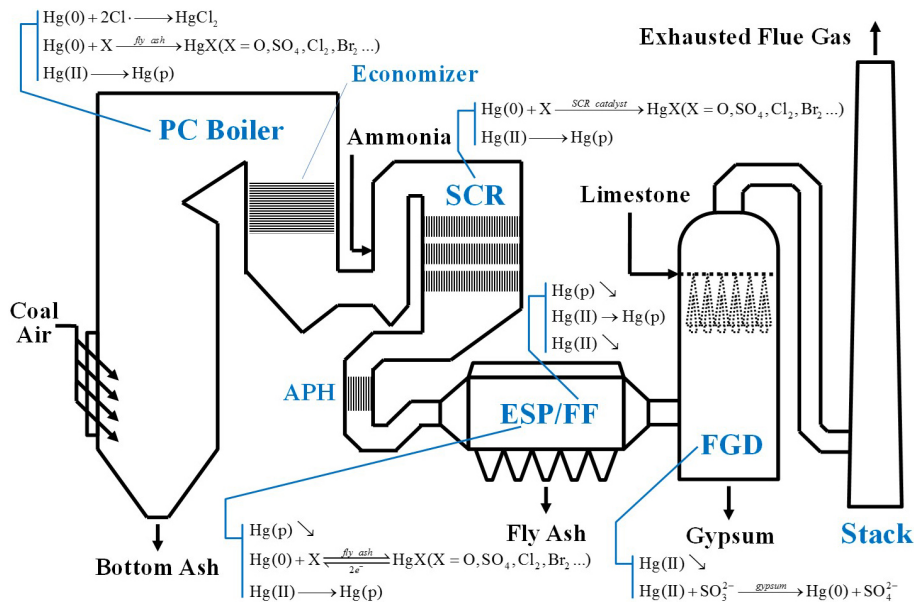


Figure 1. Mercury transformation and removal across APCDs in coal-fired power plants.

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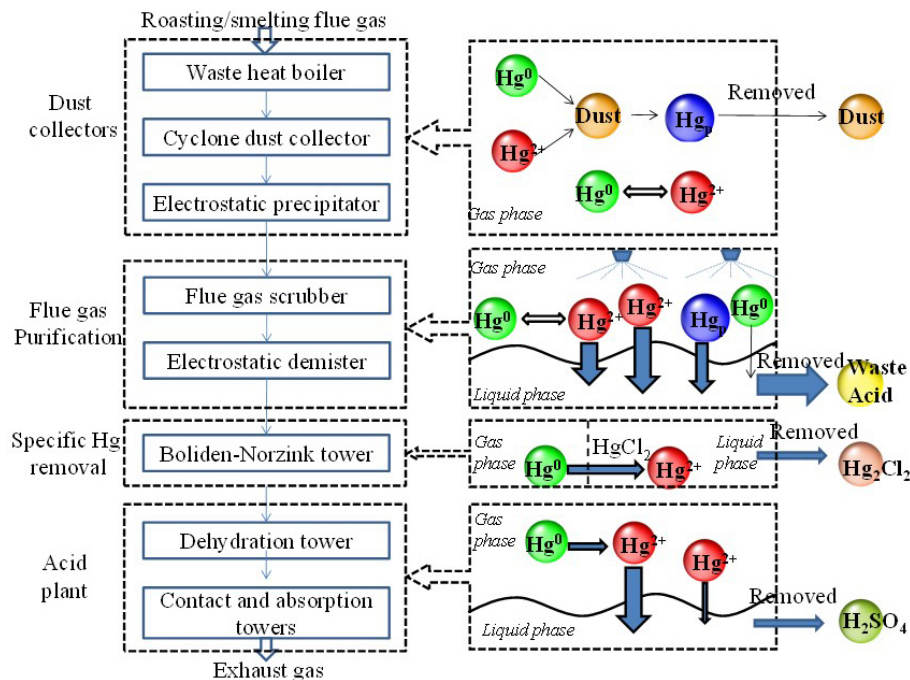


Figure 2. Mercury transformation and removal in roasting/smelting flue gas.

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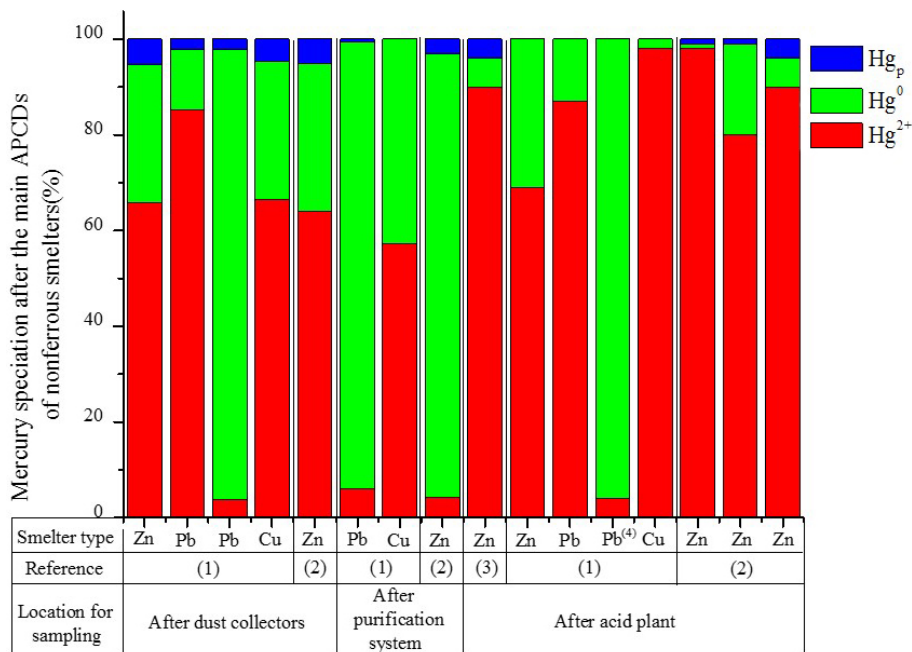
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Note: (1) Zhang et al., 2012; (2) Wu et al., 2015; (3) Wang et al., 2010; (4) Acid plant with single contact and single absorption tower.

Figure 3. Mercury speciation after APCDs for non-ferrous metal smelters.

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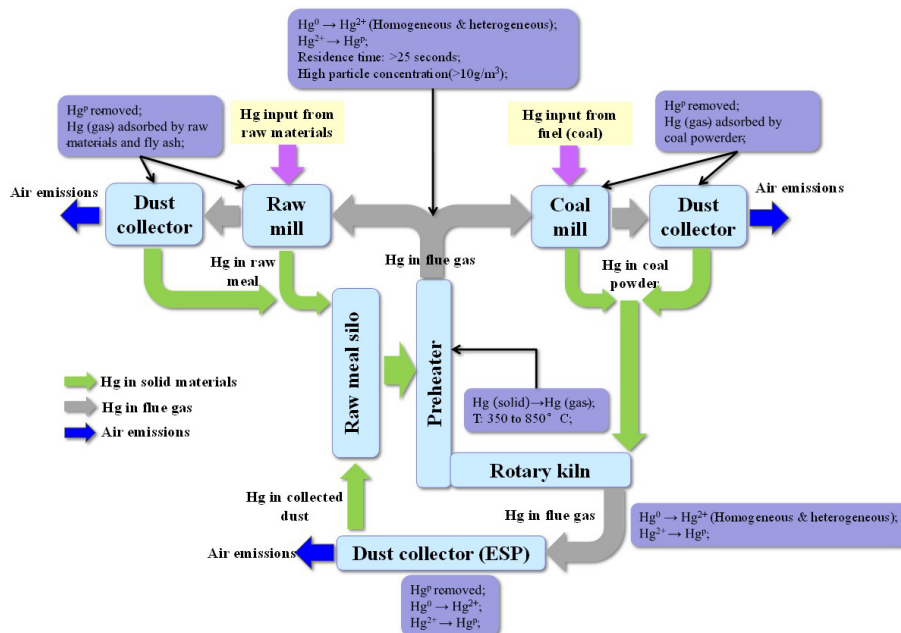


Figure 4. Mercury transformation in the precalciner cement production process.

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