HEALTH-SECTOR REGULATION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES CURRENTLY USED TO MANUFACTURE METHAMPHETAMINES IN MEXICO

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The 2007-2012 National Development Plan states that one of the current administration's key policies is to fight drug trafficking.

However, to sidestep the Mexican government’s efforts to reduce the illicit production of narcotics, organized crime has found alternative methods for methamphetamine production; substances other than pseudoephedrine and ephedrine are now used following the bans placed on them.

The substances found most frequently in clandestine synthetic drug laboratories are:

- Phenylacetic acid
- Methylamine
- Hydroiodic acid
- Red phosphorus
Phenylacetic acid is a substance of international concern. The International Narcotics Control Board has asked governments to strengthen their control measures.

Mexico is one of the world’s top importers of this chemical.

Phenylacetic acid and its esters offer a new alternative for methamphetamine production, by means of a process that uses these substances.

Customs controls are minimal; no authorization is required; no sampling takes place; they can enter and leave through any of the country’s customs stations; they are subject to random inspections.

As substances subject to lax oversight, they are in breach of the tax and health regulations.

In recent years, the following substances have been found in raids on clandestine laboratories that process amphetamine-type stimulants: phenylacetic acid, its salts and derivatives, along with methylamine, hydroiodic acid, and red phosphorus.

As a result, the actions necessary to prevent the production of illicit products that could endanger public health were taken, since the existing regulations were inadequate to ensure effective control over substances of this kind.
AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING CONTROL AND OVERSIGHT MEASURES FOR
PHENYLACETIC ACID AND ITS SALTS AND DERIVATIVES,
METHYLAMINE, HYDROIODIC ACID, AND RED PHOSPHORUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Previous Regulation</th>
<th>Regulation per Agreement</th>
<th>Control Instruments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phenylacetic acid, salts, derivatives</td>
<td>Essential chemical</td>
<td>Precursor chemical and psychotropic substance</td>
<td>Permits for imports, exports, on-site purchases, and volume controls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methylamine</td>
<td>Toxic substance</td>
<td>Precursor chemical and psychotropic substance</td>
<td>Permits for imports, exports, on-site purchases, and volume controls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydroiodic acid</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>Essential chemical</td>
<td>Import/export notification and annual report</td>
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<td>Red phosphorus</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS

1. Acetone
2. Anthranilic acid
3. Hydrochloric acid
4. Sulfuric acid
5. Acetic anhydride
6. Hydroiodic acid
7. Diethyl ether
8. Red phosphorus
9. Methyl ethyl ketone
10. Potassium permanganate
11. Piperidine
12. Toluene

CONTROL OF ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS (ECs)

- Import/export notification for essential chemicals
- Annual report on essential chemical products
- Pre-export notifications
- Pre-import notifications
- Verification
PRECURSOR CHEMICALS

1. N-acetylanthranilic acid
2. Lysergic acid
3. Benzyl cyanide
4. Ephedrine
5. Ergometrine
6. Ergotamine
7. 1-Phenyl-2-propanone
8. Phenylpropanolamine
9. Isosafrole
10. 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone
11. Piperonal (heliotropine)
12. Safrole
13. Pseudoephedrine
14. Phenylacetic acid, its salts and derivatives
15. Methylamine

HANDLING PRECURSORS

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HANDLING PRECURSOR CHEMICALS (PCs)

- Annual planning (Art. 49 RIS)
- Health license (Arts. 258 and 227-bis LGS)
- Import permit (Art. 289 LGS)
- Notification of responsible health officer (Arts. 259 LGS, 121-128 RIS)
- Authorized control books (Art. 159 RIS)
- Security system for safeguard and custody (Art. 46 RIS)
AUTHORISED CUSTOMS STATIONS

Mexico has the following customs stations for handling precursor chemicals (Art. 289 of the General Health Law):

1. Mexico City International Airport (AICM)
2. Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas
3. Manzanillo, Colima
4. Veracruz, Veracruz

Formalities

1) Notification of annual planning
2) Health permit for import or export
3) Permits for on-site purchases
4) Release/sampling request
5) Authorization of control books
6) Request for verification visit (for balance, destruction, stamping, and sealing)
7) Annual report on precursor chemicals
8) Report of diversion or irregular activity
Health Permits

- Issued at the request of the company that wants to import, export, or conduct an on-site purchase.
- Authorization is given for one single operation.
- Issued in original and two copies, on numbered security paper.
- If not used, must be returned for immediate cancellation.

Requirements for Obtaining Authorization

- Health license issued by the Secretariat of Health
- Health officer responsible
- Authorized control books
- Security area
- Planning
- Request form
Import Permit

Thank you

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