



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

cicad

GROUP OF EXPERTS CONCERNING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

**COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING ON ISSUES RELATING TO CHEMICAL
SUBSTANCES**

Colombia

Lima, Peru

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SUBSTANCES**

Pursuant to the commitments assumed at the meeting of the CICAD Expert Group on Chemical Substances held in Mexico City in September 2007 regarding a hemispheric pilot training program on chemical substances used in the production of illegal natural and synthetic drugs, in 2008 CICAD and the Academic Coordination developed two pilot training processes, with emphasis on safe technical procedures for handling chemical substances, proper final disposal complying with national standards and minimizing environmental effects, and administrative procedures allowing collaboration among private companies' technical staff (chemical industry), governmental officials, and multilateral organizations, the goal being to facilitate and increase controls.

PROPOSED TRAINING ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

The CICAD Coordinating Group and Colombia's technical team (National Narcotics Directorate) assumed responsibility for designing a program suited to subject-related requirements, based on information regarding the technical weaknesses that the Colombian and Panamanian institutions (the two countries that were selected for the respective seminars) indicated with respect to the management and technical control of controlled and seized chemical substances placed under state control.

Based on experience in the pilot training processes, the Colombian technical team is pleased to offer CICAD's Group of Experts the following training program on technical aspects relating to illicit chemical substances and drugs, directed at public officials engaged in control and interdiction activities.

SUBJECT MATTER

Legislation: Both the Colombian and Panamanian training processes took into account national legislation, United Nations provisions (Article 12 of the 1988 Vienna Convention), and CICAD's Model Regulations to Control Chemical Substances.

Processes for interdiction of chemical substances: Camouflage methods (chemical and typical); document forgery; frequent routes; international traffic; use of substitute substances.

Physical-chemical characteristics and proper handling of substances: Technical information on groups of chemical substances used for the clandestine production of drugs (bases, salts, acids, solvents, catalysts, oxidants, etc.), based on key information in the Safety Sheets for each substance. Relevant aspects taken into account include: physical-chemical properties (density,

appearance, solubility, physical state), substance synonyms, lawful uses, unlawful uses; health effects, first aid; measures in case of fire; accident prevention measures; storage and handling; and toxicological and ecological information.

Clandestine laboratories: Classification of structures used in the extraction, refining, conversion, and dosing of illegal drugs. General characteristics; processes carried out; equipment and paraphernalia used in processes; chemical substances frequently found by type of structure. Interdiction mechanisms: correct dismantling taking the agent's biosafety into account and minimizing environmental impact.

Proper temporary storage of chemical substances: Characteristics of seized chemical substances: condition of containers, volumes, site of seizure. Minimum adequate conditions for storage areas: signage, chemical incompatibility, safety equipment, and first aid.

Final disposal of seized chemical substances: Neutralization, conversion, destruction. Sale or auction. Donation.

Illegal drugs of natural origin: Coca derivatives – cocaine base paste, cocaine base, cocaine chlorhydrate, crack, unpurified cocaine, free base, others. Opiate derivatives: morphine, codeine, narcotine, papaverine, heroin. Cannabis derivatives: natural cannabis, cannabis oil, hashish.

Emerging drugs: Ecstasy family, methamphetamines. Poppers. LSD. Medications subject to special controls (barbiturates, benzodiazepines, opiate derivatives and opioids, etc.). Anabolic substances.

Final disposal of seized drugs: chemical destruction; incineration; solubilization.

Drug information systems: General characteristics of information systems. Variables and descriptors, standardization and validation of information, preparation of technical manuals and user manuals.

PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM

OBJECTIVE:

Acquire and assimilate knowledge relating to techniques for the investigation, interdiction, handling, transport, storage, and proper final disposal of seized chemical substances.

First Module

International legislation on chemical substances.

National legislation on chemical substances

Conceptualization and standardization of terminology used in processes to control and interdict chemical substances

Processes for control and interdiction of chemical substances

Administrative control processes

Second Module

Clandestine laboratories

Final disposal of seized chemical substances: administrative processes (sale, auction, donation).

Technical processes: neutralization, transformation, and destruction

Third Module

Physical and chemical properties of substances used in the extraction and refinement of natural drugs: Acids, Bases, Solvents, Salts. Finished products

Proper handling of chemical substances

Process for neutralizing acids and strong bases

Potassium permanganate and other oxidizing substances.

Interdiction of clandestine laboratories

Final disposal of seized chemical substances

Fourth Module

Illegal drugs of natural origin: cocaine and derivatives; opiates and cannabis derivatives: General information on illicit production processes and chemical and toxicological aspects

Emerging drugs: General information on illicit production processes and chemical and toxicological aspects

Proper final disposal of seized drugs

Fifth Module

Drug information systems: variables on interdiction – standardization for information gathering.

Preparation of manuals

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