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Organization of American States

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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION
CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

FORTY-SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
May 3 - 5, 2010
Washington, DC

OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.47
CICAD/doc.1801/10
3 May 2010
Original: Español

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



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2010
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Cofepris 
Comisión Federal para la Protección
contra Riesgos Sanitarios



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

WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 3-5, 2010



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BACKGROUND

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:







  

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- Phenylacetic acid
- Methylamine
- Hydroiodic acid
- Red phosphorus











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- 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.

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- 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.

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AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING CONTROL AND OVERSIGHT MEASURES FOR PHENYLACETIC ACID AND ITS SALTS AND DERIVATIVES, METHYLAMINE, HYDROIODIC ACID, AND RED PHOSPHORUS

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

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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

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CONTROL OF ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS (ECs)

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


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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



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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)



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AUTHORIZED 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







  


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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








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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.


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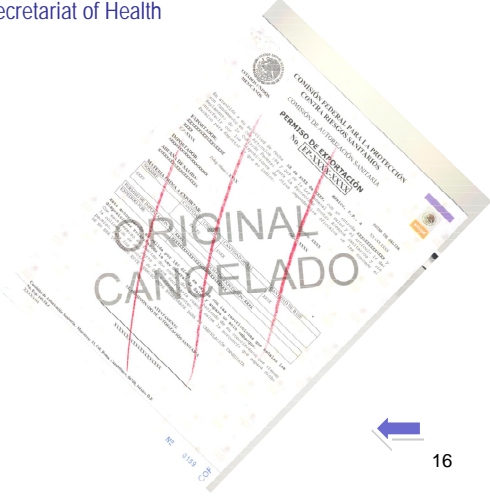


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REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING AUTHORIZATION


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







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CANCELADO





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Import Permit

PERMIT NUMBER

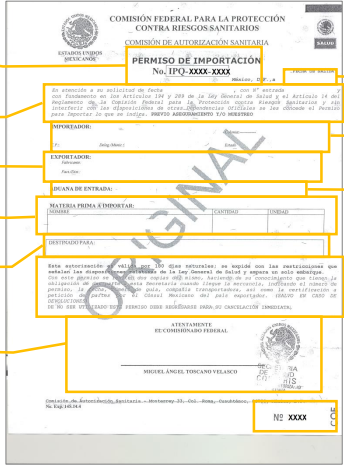
REQUEST

EXPORTER

PRODUCT

DESTINATION

SIGNATURE




EXIT DATE

IMPORTER

CUSTOMS

VALID DATES

CONSECUTIVE NUMBERING



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Thank you

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