



U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration

Office of the Administrator

Springfield, VA 22152

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To Whom It May Concern:

The United States is in the midst of an unprecedented drug poisoning epidemic. In 2022, approximately 110,757 Americans were killed by drug poisonings. Approximately 70% of these drug poisonings involved fentanyl, and approximately 30% involved methamphetamine. As you are aware, drug traffickers are using tableting and encapsulating machines—commonly referred to as pill presses—to press fentanyl into pills, and they are using punches and dies to imprint markings and logos onto those pills as they are pressed. With these tools, criminal actors are able to produce pills that look like legitimate prescription medication—like Percocet, Xanax, and Adderall—but are not. Those pills actually contain fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other deadly drugs. Criminals then sell those pills on social media and in our communities, often to people who do not know that the pills are not real or that they contain deadly and dangerous drugs.

In 2023, the Drug Enforcement Administration seized over 79 million fake pills containing fentanyl—a more than 33% increase from the year before. And DEA laboratory testing indicates that those pills grew more deadly—from 6 out of 10 pills containing a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl to, now, 7 out of 10 pills containing a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl. The 2023 seizures of pills alone represent more than 50 million deadly doses of fentanyl.

DEA has found that pill presses, punches, and dies that can be used to make fake pills containing fentanyl are being offered for sale on various e-commerce platforms. E-commerce entities selling pill press machines are generally “regulated persons” under the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. § 802(38), and therefore, subject to the recordkeeping, identification, and reporting requirements of 21 U.S.C. § 830. As regulated entities, e-commerce platforms are required to comply with CSA recordkeeping and reporting requirements on the distribution, importation, and exportation of pill press machines. Please see more detailed guidance of reporting requirements at <https://www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/>.

DEA will continue to use every tool at its disposal to help fight this drug poisoning and overdose crisis and to save American lives.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Milgram
Administrator
Drug Enforcement Administration