

NOTICE



SAFROLE AND SASSAFRAS OIL ARE USED IN THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURE OF MDMA

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is issuing this notice to inform businesses (i.e. regulated persons) handling safrole and essential oils rich in safrole, such as sassafras oil, “brown” camphor oil, or camphor oil 1.070, also referred to as “Chinese sassafras oil,” that these products are sometimes used in the manufacture of MDMA. MDMA is also known as ecstasy and is often spelled as XTC. MDMA is a Schedule I controlled substance under federal law.

Facts about safrole and essential oils rich in safrole:

1. Safrole and essential oils rich in safrole (collectively, “safrole”) are List I chemicals under federal law.
2. Criminals are always searching for sources of safrole.
3. Handlers of these chemical products need to know the identity of their customers, including requiring their buyers to present proof of identity, so as not to become an unwitting supplier to a clandestine MDMA laboratory. 21 U.S.C. 830(a)(3)
4. Handlers must orally report all suspicious activity to their local DEA office at the earliest practicable opportunity the handler is aware of the circumstances involving suspicious activity, and follow up with a written report within 15 days. Suspicious activity includes transactions involving an extraordinary quantity of safrole, uncommon method of payment or delivery, or any other circumstance that handlers believe may indicate that the safrole product will be used in violation of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). 21 U.S.C. 830(b)(1) and 21 CFR 1310.05(a)(1)
5. It is unlawful for any person knowingly or intentionally to possess or distribute safrole, knowing, intending, or having reasonable cause to believe, the safrole will be used in the manufacture of a controlled substance, like MDMA, in violation of the CSA. 21 U.S.C. 843(a)(6), (7). Failure to comply may result in criminal, civil, or administrative proceedings.
6. Records, reports and proof of identity for safrole customers are required for all regulated transactions, which includes all safrole receipts or distributions.

The Drug Enforcement Administration thanks you for your cooperation in this matter.

For more information, please visit: DEAdiversion.usdoj.gov

To report suspicious chemical related activity, please visit: apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/CORT

For additional questions: DOC@dea.gov