Methamphetamine, Precursors and DEA’s Perspective

DEA Chemistry Industry Conference
September 17-18, 2008
Atlanta, GA
Outline

- Domestic Methamphetamine Production Situation
- Americas: Synthetic Drugs and Precursors
- Pseudoephedrine/Ephedrine Movement into the Western Hemisphere
- Global Precursor Initiatives
- Pharmaceuticals Threat
Pseudoephedrine and Ephedrine OTC

Pseudoephedrine tablets
Pseudoephedrine and Ephedrine

OTC

Ephedrine tablets
FLOYD COUNTY, Ga. -- Officials said they have arrested 18 people associated with the manufacturing of meth in Floyd County ... arrests stem from a year-long investigation and the seizure of a meth lab in January ... Rome and Floyd County officials said they believe the people arrested were "smurfing" pseudo ephedrine tablets ...
Domestic Situation

- States and CMEA Legislation
- OTC products
- Significant Decrease in Production
- Smurfing
Operation Pill Crusher

- Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act (CMEA) of 2005 related charges filed.
- May 31, 2007 – 10 arrested in relation to purchasing in excess of the 9-gram, 30-day period retail limits.
- All defendants charged with Title 21 USC 844(a) in violation of the CMEA.
  - 2 defendants charged with Title 21 USC 846 for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.
- Pharmacy logbooks provided evidence.
DEA Significant Activity Report  
(source: Albany District Office, August 27, 2008)

... arrested nine (9) individuals pursuant to federal arrest warrants ... based on information obtained from on-site verifications of ephedrine based product sales conducted at upstate New York area gas stations and retail stores pursuant to a regulatory investigation ... verifications of the required ephedrine sales logbooks indicated that individuals were purchasing the product Ephedrine Twin Tabs 25mg HCL in quantities totaling over the allotted monthly limit of 9 grams ... Title 21 USC section 844 (a). In one example, defendant XXXXXXXX purchased 56,784 tablets of this product between December 2006 and January 2008.
Ephedrine – Guaifenesin Combination Preps

Proposed Rules
Federal Register 40232
Vol. 70, No. 133, Wednesday, July 13, 2005

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Food and Drug Administration


Cold, Cough, Allergy, Bronchodilator, and Antiasthmatic Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use; Proposed Amendment of the Tentative Final Monograph for Combination Drug Products

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.
ACTION: Proposed rule.
The Issue...

- Smurfing
  - Adaptation
  - Team Smurfing
  - Multiple locations
    - Interstate
Changing Numbers...

- Leveled-off or up-swing in labs
- Law Enforcement observing up-ticks in some States
- Sporadic
  - Adaptation to legislation on retail denial
CBP-DEA Ports Project

Importations and Transshipments
Legal Basis...

- Transshipment without proper notice
- 21 CFR 1313.31
- CCD published memorandum
Mexico

U.S. – Mexico Bilateral cooperation
Why Chemicals?

- Licit vs. Black Market
Canada
MDMA and MDMA-Meth
1988 Vienna Convention
Article 12

United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988
Commission on Narcotic Drugs

- 49th CND Resolution
  - U.S. sponsored - 2006
  - EPH, PSE, P2P, MDP2P, AND PREPS
  - NATIONAL LICIT NEEDS
### 49th CND: National Licit Needs

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<tr>
<th>Country / Territory</th>
<th>Ephedrine kg</th>
<th>Ephedrine prepar. kg</th>
<th>Pseudoephedrine kg</th>
<th>Pseudoephedrine prepar. kg</th>
<th>3,4-MDP-2-P kg</th>
<th>P-2-P kg</th>
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**United States of America**

- 3 500 kg
- 379 100 kg
- 31 838 kg

**Notes:**
- The names of non-metropolitan territories and special administrative regions are in italics.
- A blank field signifies that no requirement was indicated or data are not submitted for the substance in question.
- Quantities reported below 1 kilogramme have been rounded up and are reflected as 1 kg.
  - 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone.
  - 1-Phenyl-2-propanone.
INCB Operation Crystal Flow
Africa
Commission on Narcotic Drugs

- **50th CND Resolution**
  - E.U. sponsored – 2007
    - Alternate chems
- **51st CND Resolutions**
  - Mexico and India sponsored – 2008
    - Alternate chems
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- To Apply for New Applications for Registration On-Line
- To Apply for Registration by Mail
- For Registration Changes (Address, Drug Code, Name, Schedules)
- Duplicate Certificates
- Order Forms

For Registration Matters
1-800-882-9639

WHAT'S NEW
THANK YOU...

Scott Masumoto
Special Agent/Staff Coordinator
Drug Enforcement Administration
Office of Diversion Control
Synthetic Drugs and Chemicals Section