

Addendum to ACMD's Report on Synthetic Cannabinoids

On the 27 November 2014 the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) provided advice to the then Minister for Crime Prevention to control a broad range of "third generation" synthetic cannabinoids as Class B drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

On the 25 March 2015 the ACMD published an addendum, which recommended an amendment to the generic definition to exempt three medicinal products from the proposed generic definition. A further addendum was published on 14 January 2016 to include additional ACMD advice which recommended the addition of two core structures, four secondary structures and a list of ten compounds to be exempted from control under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The ACMD now recommends a further addendum to provide clarity to the wording of the existing definition. This amendment includes a correction of the drafting error in relation to the "and" after viminol and the closed brackets after "zafirlukast"; and, for ease of interpretation, insertion of the words "where any of the sub-structures have been modified".

Revised paragraph 8.1 to be inserted into the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in Schedule 2, Part 2 after paragraph 1(c) as paragraph 1(ca)

"any compound (not being clonitazene, etonitazene, acemetacin, atorvastatin, bazedoxifene, indometacin, losartan, olmesartan, proglumetacin, telmisartan, viminol, zafirlukast or a compound for the time being specified in sub-paragraph (c) above) structurally related to 1-pentyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole (JWH-018), in that the four sub-structures, that is to say the indole ring, the pentyl substituent, the methanone linking group and the naphthyl ring, are linked together in a similar manner, whether or not any of the sub-structures have been modified, and whether or not substituted in any of the linked sub-structures with one or more univalent substituents and, where any of the sub-structures have been modified, the modifications of the sub-structures are limited to any of the following, that is to say—

- i. replacement of the indole ring with indane, indene, indazole, pyrrole, pyrazole, imidazole, benzimidazole, pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine, pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine or pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridine;
- ii. replacement of the pentyl substituent with alkyl, alkenyl, benzyl, cycloalkylmethyl, cycloalkylethyl, (N-methylpiperidin-2-yl)methyl, 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl or (tetrahydropyran-4-yl)methyl;
- iii. replacement of the methanone linking group with an ethanone, carboxamide, carboxylate, methylene bridge or methine group;
- iv. replacement of the 1-naphthyl ring with 2-naphthyl, phenyl, benzyl, adamantyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylmethyl, cycloalkylethyl, bicyclo[2.2.1]heptanyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, 1-amino-1-oxopropan-2-yl, 1-hydroxy-1-oxopropan-2-yl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl, pyrrolidinyl, tetrahydropyranyl or piperazinyl.";