

Poisons and chemicals from pharmacy

From the 26th May 2015, the Poisons Act 1972 will be amended, changing how poisons are classified. This guide summarises this information.



ROYAL
PHARMACEUTICAL
SOCIETY



Home Office

Regulated substances		Reportable substances	
PART 1 - Regulated explosives pre-cursors	Part 2 - Regulated non-medicinal poisons	Part 3 - Reportable explosives precursors	Part 4 - Reportable non-medicinal poisons
Hydrogen peroxide over 12% w/w Nitromethane over 30% w/w Nitric acid over 3% w/w Potassium chlorate over 40% w/w Potassium perchlorate over 40% w/w Sodium chlorate over 40% w/w Sodium perchlorate over 40% w/w Sulphuric acid over 15% w/w	Hydrogen Cyanide (Use: metal cleaning, electroplating) Lead acetates (Use: painting, soldering, target shooting, pottery) Oxalic acid over 10% w/w (Use: stain removal, leather tanning, bee keeping and general purpose cleaning) Barium Salts (Use: chemistry experiments) There are other P2 poisons, however we are unaware of potential uses by the general public.	Acetone Aluminium powders Ammonium nitrate Calcium ammonium nitrate Calcium Nitrate Hexamine Magnesium powders Magnesium nitrate hexahydrate Potassium Nitrate Sodium Nitrate	Aldicarb, alpha-chloralose, ammonia, arsenites, barium carbonate & silicofluoride, carbofuran, cycloheximide, dinitrocresols, dinoseb, dinoterb, drazoxolon, endosulfan, endothal, endrin, fentin, formaldehyde, formic acid, hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, mercuric chloride, metallic oxalates, methomyl, nicotine, nitrobenzene >0.1%, oxamyl, paraquat, phenols, phosphoric acid, various phosphorous compounds, potassium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, sodium nitrite, thiofax, zinc phosphide

Legislation requires that suspicious transactions, significant disappearances and thefts are reported

The duty to "report" applies to attempted transactions and requests whether or not a substance is available from the seller

If suspicious about a transaction report to the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789321. If there is significant theft or loss report to the police on 101

Tips for spotting suspicious requests

Purchaser unsure about what the substance is for or how it is used
Requests for unusually large quantities or repeated requests
Reluctance to provide proof of ID or address
Pays with cash

Disappearances and thefts

Significant or unusual losses

Details to report can include:

Product
Description of person e.g. sex, age, height, build
Name and address of customer (if known)

Before supplying to a member of the public you must

1. Check the purchaser has a Home Office licence
2. Check to see if it is unaltered and in-date
3. Check ID - supplies CANNOT be made to third party
4. Check substance requested and total quantity match the details on the licence
5. Record details of the transaction onto the licence

Labelling: In addition to CLP compliant all supplies must be labelled

'Acquisition, possession or use by the general public is restricted' or similar wording

For P2 regulated poisons make an entry into the poisons register:

1. Date of supply
2. Name and address of purchaser
3. Name and quantity of regulated poison
4. Purpose of purchase
5. Signature of purchaser

Supplies do not require the purchaser to hold a Home Office licence.

If your pharmacy supplies poisons or chemicals, before agreeing, consider whether the request is suspicious (see above) and whether appropriate commercial alternatives and sellers are available.

Labelling needs to be compliant with the CLP (Classification, Labelling and Packaging) Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008.

RPS members can contact the support team for further information:

Online: www.rpharms.com/enquiry

Phone: 0845 257 2570 or Email: support@rpharms.com

Other:

Deregulation Act 2015: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/20/contents/enacted>

HSE: Reach information <http://www.hse.gov.uk/reach>