

Report on WHO Questionnaire for Review of Psychoactive Substances for the 37th ECDD: Evaluation of MT-45

A total of 65 out of 100 countries answered the questionnaire for MT-45. There were 62 countries which submitted the questionnaire answers through the online survey system. The remaining 3 countries submitted hardcopy answers to the Secretariat.

Of the responding countries, 13 countries had information on this substance.

LEGITIMATE USE

There are no approved medical products for human indications in any of the 12 countries.

MT-45 is currently used in medical or scientific research in one country for preclinical laboratory studies and in the production of analytical standards.

For non-medical/non-scientific purposes, MT-45 was reported by one country as being used for chemical reference standards. The source of MT-45 for legitimate non-medical/non-scientific use was reported by one country as manufactured domestically and imported.

MT-45 was not reported to be used for any cultural, religious or ceremonial purposes in 11 countries.

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF NON-MEDICAL/NON-SCIENTIFIC USE: USE FOR PSYCHOACTIVE PURPOSES OR RECREATIONAL DRUG USE

There were 4 countries which reported MT-45 as being misused for its psychoactive properties (as a recreational drug). Routes of administration for non-medical/non-scientific purposes include oral (2 countries), injection (2 countries) and sniffing (1 country). Formulations of MT-45 include powder (3 countries) and plant material (1 country). Two countries reported the source of MT-45 for non-medical/non-scientific use as smuggling.

There were no specific subpopulations identified as known to misuse MT-45. The level of negative health-impact originating from this substance's non-medical consumption was reported as either substantial (1 country) or serious (2 countries). These ratings were given due to the association of MT-45 with deaths and serious intoxications, along with its use as a new psychoactive substance.

One country mentioned that there were 14 emergency room/department visits related to the non-medical use of MT-45 in 2014, however, it was unknown if other substances were involved. Reported adverse effects include unconsciousness, respiratory depression, paraesthesia in extremities and hearing loss. The same country reported 4 deaths solely attributed to MT-45 and 22 deaths where MT-45 was used in combination with other drugs (2014 data).

STATUS OF NATIONAL CONTROL AND POTENTIAL IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROL

There are 11 countries which currently have MT-45 under control by national legislation. The specific legislations on which the control is based includes the medicines act (1 country), controlled substances act (8 countries), and other specific legislation for 1 country (pharmacovigilance). The scope of the controls includes production (9 countries), manufacturing (8 countries), exporting (9 countries), importing (9 countries), distribution (9 countries), use (6 countries) and possession (8 countries). In one country the control is a temporary provision. Only one country reported having challenges with the implementation of controls, with the reason stated as 'lack of international control'.

Reported illicit activities involving MT-45 include trafficking (3 countries), domestic internet sales (1 country), overseas internet sales (2 countries), internet sales from unknown locations (1 country) and finally sales to people who use this substance (1 country). Four countries provided information on seizures of MT-45. The combined number of seizures from all four countries was 5 in 2013, 43 in 2014 and 6 in 2015 (to date). The total amount seized from all four countries was 8.8kg in 2013, 338.8kg in 2014 and 21.6kg in 2015 (to date).

If MT-45 was placed under international control, 11 countries would have the capacity to enforce the control at the national level and the forensic laboratory capacity to analyse the substance for identification and purity.

Note on Questionnaire Analysis and Reports

An initial analysis of questionnaire answers (from 80 countries) was conducted on the 9th of November, to allow the preliminary reports to be prepared for the Expert Committee's consideration. These preliminary reports were made available on the website on the 12th of November. However, countries were provided the opportunity to continue to submit their answers until the 15th of December 2015. Following which, a final analysis of all submissions (from 100 countries) took place. This report summarises the final analysis of the questionnaires.