

NOTICE



ACETONE IS USED IN THE ILLICIT PROCESSING OF LIQUID METHAMPHETAMINE

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is issuing this notice to inform businesses (i.e. regulated persons) handling acetone and acetone-containing products that their products may be used in the illicit processing of liquid methamphetamine. Methamphetamine abuse is a major drug problem in the United States.

Facts about acetone and acetone-containing products:

1. Acetone became a federally regulated List II chemical on March 18, 1989. As such, the distribution, receipt, sale, importation, or exportation of acetone and acetone-containing products can qualify as a regulated transaction per the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) and its corresponding federal regulations. 21 U.S.C. 802(39); 21 CFR 1300.02; 21 CFR 1310.
2. Acetone is being used to convert liquid methamphetamine into a usable form, crystal methamphetamine, in what are known as methamphetamine re-crystallization laboratories.
3. Handlers engaged in a regulated transaction involving acetone or acetone-containing products (500 gallons for imports/exports and 50 gallons for domestic sales - 21 CFR 1310.04(f)(2)) need to know the identity of their customers, including requiring the buyer to present proof of identity, so as not to become an unwitting supplier to a clandestine methamphetamine re-crystallization laboratory. 21 U.S.C. 830(a)(3).
4. Handlers of regulated transactions involving acetone and acetone-containing products must orally report all suspicious activity to your 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 acetone, uncommon method of payment or delivery, or any other circumstance that handlers believe may indicate that the acetone product will be used in violation of the 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 acetone, knowing, intending, or having reasonable cause to believe, that acetone will be used in the manufacture of a controlled substance, like methamphetamine, 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 acetone customers are required for all regulated transactions involving acetone, including all 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