

# NOTICE



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## COMBINATION EPHEDRINE AND PSEUDOEPHEDRINE DRUG PRODUCTS ARE USED IN ILLICIT METHAMPHETAMINE MANUFACTURE

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is issuing this notice to inform businesses (i.e. regulated persons) handling ephedrine (EPH), pseudoephedrine (PSE), and/or drug products containing these substances that these chemicals are used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine. Methamphetamine abuse is a major drug problem in the United States, and criminals are always searching for sources of PSE and/or EPH.

### Facts about Ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine

For Regulated Transactions:

1. EPH and PSE are List I chemicals under federal law, whether in bulk, single entity or combination dosage forms. As such, the distribution, receipt, sale, importation, or exportation of EPH and PSE as well as products containing EPH and PSE 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. Handlers of EPH and PSE 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 laboratory. 21 U.S.C. 830(a)(3).
3. Handlers must orally report all suspicious activity to their 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 PSE or EPH, uncommon method of payment or delivery, or any other circumstance that handlers believe may indicate these chemicals/drug products will be used in violation of the CSA. 21 U.S.C. 830(b)(1) and 21 CFR 1310.05(a)(1).
4. Records, reports and proof of identity for PSE or EPH customers are required for all regulated transactions, which include all PSE or EPH receipts or distributions.
5. Importation and dosage form manufacture of EPH and PSE are subject to quotas. 21 CFR 1315.

For Retail Sales:

1. Retail level distributors are subject to the mandatory requirements of obtaining a self-certification from DEA, maintaining a logbook of sales and purchases, and adhering to limits for sales transactions. 21 U.S.C. 830(e); 21 CFR 1314.

It is unlawful for any person knowingly or intentionally to possess or distribute PSE or EPH, knowing, intending, or having reasonable cause to believe, the PSE or EPH will be used to manufacture 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.

**The Drug Enforcement Administration thanks you for your cooperation in this matter.**

For more information, please visit: [DEAdiversion.usdoj.gov](https://DEAdiversion.usdoj.gov)

To report suspicious chemical related activity, please visit: [apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/CORT](https://apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/CORT)

For additional questions: [DOC@dea.gov](mailto:DOC@dea.gov)