Imports of All Remaining Fentanyl-Related Substances Restricted, Controls on Synthetic Cannabinoid Extended

The Drug Enforcement Administration has issued an order adding to schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act all fentanyl-related substances that are not currently listed in any CSA schedule, including those that have not yet been introduced into the U.S. market, along with their isomers, esters, ethers, salts and salts of isomers, esters and ethers.

This order imposes the regulatory controls and administrative, civil and criminal sanctions applicable to schedule I controlled substances on persons who import, export, manufacture, distribute, reverse distribute or possess all currently unlisted fentanyl-related substances as well as persons who engage in research, instructional activities or chemical analysis with respect to these substances. The order is effective as of 6 February and will remain in effect until 6 February 2020, with a possible extension of one year.

Separately, the DEA has issued a final rule extending through 5 February 2019 the placement of the synthetic cannabinoid N-(1-amino-3-methyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (MAB-CHMINACA), including its optical, positional and geometric isomers, salts and salts of isomers, into schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. This rule continues the regulatory controls and administrative, civil and criminal sanctions applicable to schedule I controlled substances on persons who handle (import, export, manufacture, distribute, engage in research, conduct instructional activities or chemical analysis, or possess) this substance, which include the following.

- all importation and exportation must continue to be in compliance with 21 USC 952, 953, 957 and 958 and in accordance with 21 CFR part 1312
- any activity involving this substance that is not authorised by, or is in violation of, the Controlled Substances Act or its implementing regulations continues to be unlawful and may subject the person to administrative, civil or criminal sanctions
- any person who handles or desires to handle this substance must be registered with the DEA to conduct such activities
- all labels, labelling and packaging for commercial containers of this substance must comply with 21 USC 825 and 958(e) and be in accordance with 21 CFR part 1302
- only registered manufacturers are permitted to manufacture this substance in accordance with an assigned quota
- every DEA registrant that possesses any quantity of this substance must take an inventory of all stocks on hand as of 16 October

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