Supporting Law Enforcement Responses to NPS

V International Conference on Novel Psychoactive Substances
Vienna, Austria, 23-24 October 2017
Fumio Ito, International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
INCB OPERATIONAL APPROACH: DEVELOPING AND SHARING ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

Multilateral operational framework / activities: NPS Task Force mechanism

Real-time communication and sharing of operational information between national authorities

Prevent substances from reaching consumer markets
PROJECT ION: GLOBAL FOCAL POINT NETWORK

Currently 125 Countries & 8 International and Regional Organizations on Project ION
IONICS - THE PROJECT ION INCIDENT COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

https://ionics.incb.org

• Over 210 registered users from across 75 countries / territories and 8 international organizations.
• 1,093 incidents communicated, involving 184 different substances and over 60 countries / territories.
### Contact details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Position</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Email</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Incident details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Incident number</th>
<th>1.2 Date of publication</th>
<th>1.3 Country</th>
<th>1.4 Operation (if applicable)</th>
<th>1.5 City/Region</th>
<th>1.6 Agency effecting the incident (e.g. Police, Customs)</th>
<th>1.7 Location at which the incident occurred</th>
<th>1.8 Nature of the incident</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1750</td>
<td>14/07/2015</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Other (see details):</td>
<td>Post/mall/postal facility</td>
<td>Suspicious shipment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### NPS details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. NPS &quot;Products&quot;/Substances</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Confirmed by</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. MME-CHIMINACA</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>g</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

### Routing details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. Route</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Origin</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Patterns of Customs Misdeclaration Shared through IONICS

- Described as legitimate substances or products
  - Jelly powder: 300 g of mephedrone (white powder) in small packets contained in a package marked as “coconut powder”
  - Calcium citrate malate: 100 g of AB-FUBINACA in a foil pouch contained in a food packet; 1 kg of MDPBP in a silver foil bag contained in a package with a commercial label of detergent.

- Described as beauty, health or other home products
  - Beauty products: 1 kg of 5-fluoro-AMB (off-white powder) in a silver foil pouch
  - Fitness products: 4 shipments of 500 g of suspected NPS in silver foil pouches contained in tea supplement product packages

- Described as personal, recreational or other commodities
  - Personal items (hammock, camping stove, mosquito net and books): 310 g of mephedrone (white paste) in a plastic bottle of “Natural Coconut Oil”
  - Gift: 1 kg of 5-fluoro-AMB (white paste) in silver foil package
  - Toy: 1 kg of N,N-dimethylphenethylamine
• Seizure of mephedrone in May 2016 in the UK (shared by the Border Force)
  – A postal parcel containing various packaged toys from China
  – Two packages of off-white lumpy powder substances were found in clear plastic vacuum sealed bags, which turned out to be 3-MMC.
NOTICE 1/2017
March 2017
Cathinones frequently reported on IONICS

NOTICE 2/2017
April 2017
Suppliers frequently reported on IONICS

NOTICE 3/2017
May 2017
Control of four fentanyl analogues in China
To examine, the global situation of illicit fentanyl, its analogues, other opioid-type NPS and their precursors, from the operational perspective, and consequently to fill knowledge gaps.

A questionnaire asked Governments types of substances they encountered in 2015 and 2016.

The questionnaire also asked:
- Circumstances where the substances were encountered;
- Which countries / territories the substances were from;
- Names, addresses and other relevant information of individuals/enterprises involved; and
- Whether there are any legitimate uses of the substances.

The questionnaire was distributed in December 2016 through national focal points, including competent national authorities on drug control worldwide.
48 countries and territories and one regional organization (the European Commission) responded with regard to 57 countries and territories.

- Countries / territories having retuned the questionnaire
- Countries supplemented by the European Commission’s response
40 substances were encountered in 37 countries and territories.
IDENTIFIED MOVEMENT OF FENTANYLS

- The broken line from the United Kingdom to Turkey indicates a seizure of 2,000 fentanyl ampoules apparently originated from a legitimate source.

- The broken line from Mexico to the United States of America is based on Mexico’s report of a seizure of tablets containing fentanyl being sent.
Modus Operandi of Smuggling

- In most cases, substances were packaged in plastic or foil bags, hidden in envelopes or parcels sent via mail or courier.
- Fentanyl analogues mixed with liquid and bottled in nasal spray bottles, sold through the Internet

Shared by the Government of Sweden
**Suspected NPS Trade Ring Found Through Ionics and Project ION Network**

**Country 1**
- 4-CMC in March 2016 Ionics
- XLR-11 in June 2014 Ionics
- (Alleged on BBS) Fake medicines received
- (Alleged on BBS) Ordered etizolam/alphazolam in 2014 through a B2B trade site
- Payment

**Country 2**
- Country 1 seized NPS shipments from Company X in 2014 and 2015.

**Country 3**
- (Alleged on BBS) Fake medicines received

**Country 4**
- Mr. P
- (Alleged on BBS) Ordered etizolam/alphazolam in 2014 through a B2B trade site
- Contacts: Mr. C, Ms. D, Ms. E, and others

**Country 5**
- Mr. Q
- (Alleged on BBS) Companies Y and Z are the same
- Country 5 Police also aware of Company Y and Mr. B

**Company X**
- Contact: Mr. A

**Company Y**
- Contacts: Mr. A, Ms. C, Ms. D, Ms. E, and others
- Western Union account holder: Mr. B

**Company Z**
- Country 2
- Company Z has offered NPS on at least one B2B trade site since 2014.

*Country 5 Police also aware of Company Y and Mr. B*
Questions?

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