

Glossary

The following terms and definitions are frequently used in INCB reports on precursors:

chemical intermediate	A chemical generated during a multi-step synthesis process that is normally not isolated but immediately consumed in the next synthesis step. Stable chemical intermediates can be isolated and have been encountered as purpose-made substitute chemicals for controlled precursors
designer precursor	A close chemical relative of a controlled precursor that is purpose-made to circumvent controls and usually does not have any recognized legitimate use
diversion	The transfer of substances from licit to illicit channels
forensic profiling analysis	In-depth laboratory analysis to trace any by-products generated during illicit manufacture, with a view to, inter alia, identifying the precursors used in such manufacture
immediate precursor	A precursor that is generally only one reaction step away from the end product
industrial-scale laboratory	A laboratory for the manufacture of synthetic drugs in which oversized equipment and/or glassware that is either custom-made or purchased from industrial processing sources and/or that uses serial reactions is used and in which significant amounts of drugs are produced in very short periods of time, the amount being limited only by the need for access to precursors and other essential chemicals in adequate quantities and for the logistics and workers to handle large amounts of drugs and chemicals
limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances	A list prepared, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/29, and regularly updated by INCB that includes substitute and alternative chemicals, as well as groups of common derivatives and other related substances that can be converted into one of the scheduled precursors by readily applicable means, and for which substantial information exists on their use in illicit drug manufacture
pharmaceutical preparation	A preparation for therapeutic (human or veterinary) use in its finished dosage form that contains precursors present in such a way that they can be used or recovered by readily applicable means; such preparations may be presented in their retail packaging or in bulk
precursor	In general, a starting material used to manufacture a narcotic drug, a psychotropic substance or another precursor; sometimes used to refer exclusively to the substances in Table I and Table II of the 1988 Convention
pre-precursor	A precursor of a precursor
seizure	The act of prohibiting the transfer, conversion, disposition or movement of property or assuming custody of or control over property on the basis of an order issued by a court or competent authority; it may be temporary or permanent (i.e. confiscation); different national legal systems may use different terms
stopped shipment	A shipment permanently withheld, either because reasonable grounds exist to believe that it may constitute an attempted diversion, or as a result of administrative problems or because of other grounds for concern or suspicion
suspicious order (or suspicious transaction)	An order (or transaction) of questionable, dishonest or unusual character or condition, for which there is reason to believe that a chemical that is being ordered, imported or exported or is transiting a country or territory is destined for use in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances