

Carrying by international travellers of small quantities of preparations containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for personal medical use

1. The Board continues to assist travellers carrying small quantities of controlled substances for personal medical use across international borders. These efforts gained high visibility and prominent usefulness.
2. An ever increasing inflow of queries from individual travellers and organizations on the aforementioned subject has been observed. The secretariat regularly receives requests for assistance and/or clarification of the applicable national rules and regulations. The requests come from organizations and individual travellers residing in various countries, mainly (in 2016) from Australia, France, Italy, United Kingdom, and the United States; their countries of destination were Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Guinea Bissau, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey and the USA.
3. Several requests relate to common rules and regulations of the European Union and the Schengen area. The substances referenced in the queries included psychotropic substances listed in Schedules II, III and IV such as amphetamine, alprazolam, buprenorphine, dextroamphetamine, diazepam, methylphenidate, nitrazepam, tramadol, zolpidem and other substances that are not under international control.
4. Since 2013, the information furnished by Governments on national requirements for travellers under medical treatment carrying preparations containing narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances under international control has been summarized in a standardized table format and made available in six official UN languages on INCB website.
5. To date, such information is available for 109 countries (up from 79 in May 2014) and is uploaded to the Board's webpage, more than half are already available in the form of standardized tables translated into six official UN languages: http://www.incb.org/incb/en/psychotropic-substances/travellers_country_regulations.html
6. Given the increasing interest in this pertinent information, in particular the international guidelines for national regulations concerning travellers under treatment with internationally controlled drugs, and the compilation of standardized summary tables of regulations by country, the secretariat sent out, in September 2016, a reminder letter to all countries and territories, requesting all Governments to visit the above website and to inform the Board if the information pertaining to their countries accurately reflects current provisions of their national laws and regulations. The Governments that have not yet furnished any information were requested to provide the requisite description of all relevant legal/regulatory or administrative measures adopted to allow travellers entering/leaving the country to carry medical preparations containing controlled substances for personal medical use. In addition to full texts of relevant pieces of information, these Governments were also requested to fill in and to submit to the Board the standardized summary tables that were attached to the circular letter.
7. The secretariat will continue to augment the list of national rules and regulations pertaining to travellers carrying internationally controlled substances for personal medical use, provide requisite assistance and attend to all inquiries in this regard.

INCB is the independent, quasi-judicial body charged with promoting and monitoring Government compliance with the three international drug control conventions: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

* * * * *

For further information, please contact: INCB Secretariat at Tel: (+43-1) 26060 4163 Email:secretariat@incb.org, Website: www.incb.org.