

## **Modification of the estimates by the Board – adjustment to stocks**

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1. In accordance with the provisions of the Single Convention, the Board automatically modifies the provisional total of the estimates during the year to which they pertain, following receipt of all statistical returns for the preceding year, and calculates and publishes the final total of the estimates. These modifications may result in two possible outcomes.
2. In the first case, according to article 19, paragraph 2, of the Single Convention, the total of estimates will increase (addition to stocks). The final total of the estimates will include the quantities to be added to the actual stocks held at the end of the year preceding that to which the estimates refer, in order to bring the stocks to the estimated level. For example, let us assume that during 2024 country A furnished an estimate for stocks of pethidine of 7 000 grams to be held at the end of 2025. In June 2025 country A reports in Form C stocks of pethidine of 5 000 grams held on 31 December 2024. The provisional total of the estimates is then increased automatically by the Board by 2 000 grams, in order to allow country A to manufacture or import the additional quantities needed to bring the stocks of pethidine to the desired level of 7 000 grams.
3. In the second case, according to article 19, paragraph 2, and article 21, paragraph 3, the total of estimates will decrease (deduction from the total of estimates). The following paragraphs describe the circumstances under which such deductions take place and explain the calculations done by the Board in this respect.
4. Following receipt of the complete statistics for the preceding years the “limit of manufacture and import” is calculated automatically by the Board for that year, in accordance with its definition contained in article 21 of the Single Convention. Generally speaking, this limit for a given drug consists of the quantities corresponding to its actual needs (consumption, utilization in the manufacture of Schedule III preparations, utilization for the manufacture of other narcotic drugs and substances not covered by the Single Convention, quantity added to stocks, quantity acquired for special stocks) within the limit of the relevant estimate, and the quantity exported. “Within the limit of the relevant estimate” means that the corresponding estimated and actual figures are compared and the lower one is used in the calculation. From this sum are deducted the quantity seized and released for licit use and the quantity taken from special stocks for the requirements of the civilian population (if applicable). The limit of manufacture and import equals therefore the quantities of a drug which had to be

manufactured or imported for domestic requirements and exports, since they could not be obtained from other sources such as seizures or special stocks.

5. Whenever the sum of actual manufacture and imports of a given drug during the preceding year was higher than this theoretical limit of manufacture and import, there was excess manufacture or import for that drug in question. This excess may have occurred because the estimates furnished for the uses of the drug in question were too low, because actual uses were lower than expected, or because exports fell short of expectations.
  
6. Whenever the excess was due to lower actual uses or exports than expected, such excess remained in stocks at the end of the preceding year. Only when such excess remained in stocks, and the stock estimate for the current year is lower than actual stocks held in the preceding year, the Board will calculate a quantity to be deducted from the total of estimates in the current year. The idea behind this provision of the Single Convention is to re-establish the balance between supply and demand for narcotic drugs and to prevent accumulation of excessive amounts of stocks of narcotic drugs, by reminding the Government of the possibility of using existing stocks before importing or manufacturing additional quantities of the drugs in question. This deduction is therefore not a punitive measure, but a way of correcting an imbalance, which otherwise could result in a long-term oversupply of narcotics.

**In practice, deductions from the total of estimates frequently result from missing or inadequate estimates for stocks to be held at the end of the current year, furnished in Form B. In such a case, Governments may resolve the problem by submitting to the Board a supplementary stock estimate for the drug in question, in order to continue manufacturing or importing that drug as planned.**