

## International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

Vienna International Centre

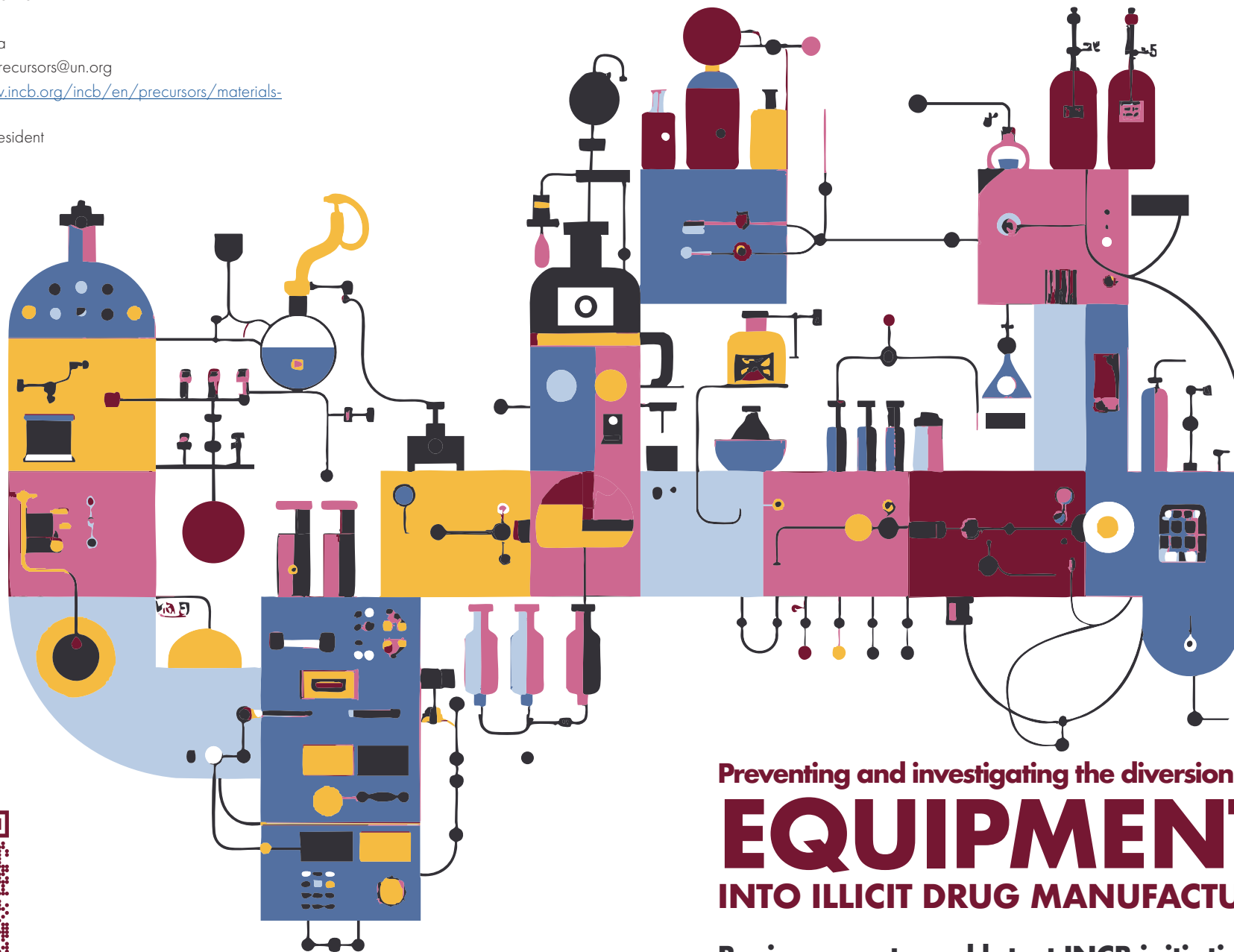
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# Preventing and investigating the diversion of **EQUIPMENT** INTO ILLICIT DRUG MANUFACTURE

Basic concepts and latest INCB initiatives

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## ABOUT INCB

The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is the independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the three United Nations international drug control conventions.

The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol

1961

1971

The Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988

1988

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# 1 Legal basis at the international level

The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 reinforces and supplements the 1961 and 1971 Conventions to counter illicit trafficking and introduces a range of measures towards this end, including international control of drug precursors.

Article 13 of this Convention requires State parties to prevent trade in and the diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and to cooperate with each other. In addition, Article 3 provides a framework for national efforts to counter and establish as criminal offences, under each country's domestic law, the manufacture, transport or distribution of equipment when it is to be used for illicit purposes, exactly as is the case for precursor chemicals.

**Article 13 of the 1988 Convention requires Members States to prevent the diversion of materials and equipment to the illicit drug manufacture, and to cooperate with each other.**



## ILLICIT MANUFACTURE OF TABLETS IS A GLOBAL CHALLENGE



Lines and dots are illustrative for the regions and do not represent any specific country

## 2 What types of equipment are of most concern to illicit drug manufacture?

There is a wide range of equipment that could potentially be used in illicit drug manufacture, like pressure reaction vessels, specialized glassware, heating mantles, special flasks, tablet presses or encapsulating machines.

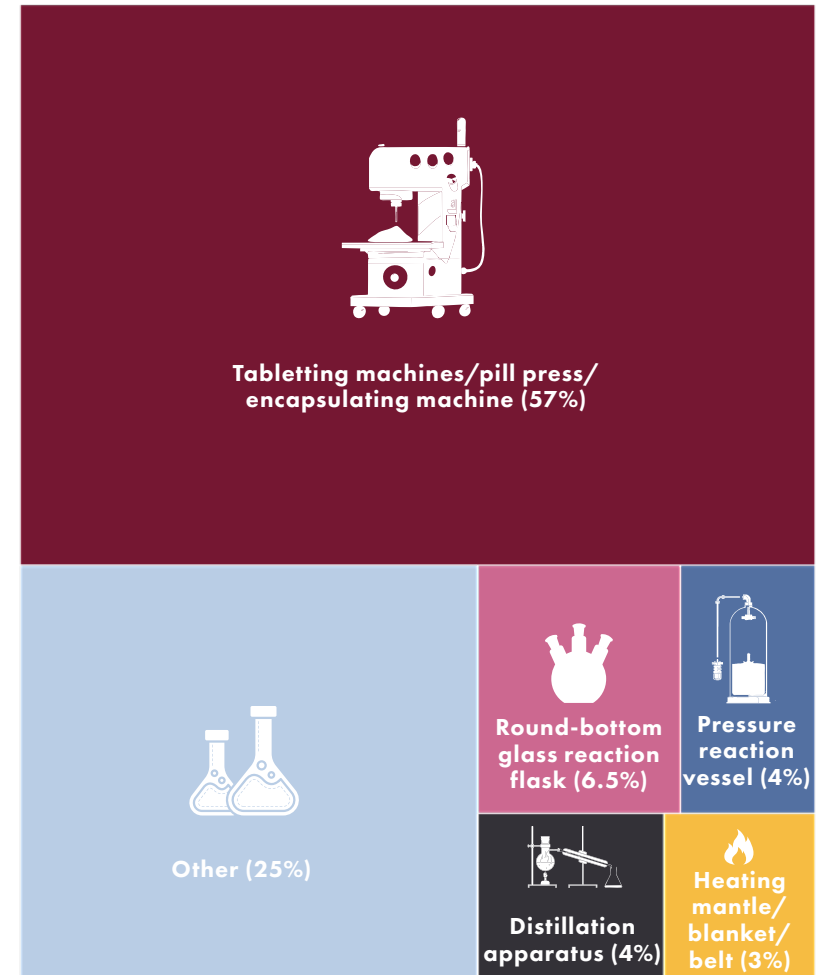
In 2022, INCB launched the International Monitoring List of Equipment used in the illicit manufacture of drugs (IMLE). The List includes certain items of equipment of international relevance and for which substantial evidence exists of their use in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, new psychoactive substances and precursors. The IMLE is a living document and will be regularly updated based on trends related to equipment used in illicit drug manufacture.

The International Monitoring List of Equipment (IMLE) is available on the [INCB – Precursors Secure Portal](#) or upon request by email for use by national authorities.

### WHAT IS PICS? PICS

The INCB Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) is the only global secure online platform for sharing actionable information on incidents, including both seizures and suspicious shipments of precursors and equipment used in illicit drug manufacture. The platform enables users – mainly regulatory and law enforcement authorities dealing with precursor matters – to conduct a wide range of analyses and provides the basis for backtracking investigations.

## Most commonly seized or suspicious equipment as per data in PICS (2010-2025)\*



\*PICS's analytics

# 3 INCB initiatives on equipment

Expansion of the Global **Repository of National Regulation or Approaches** available on INCB.org following a survey sent to Members States.



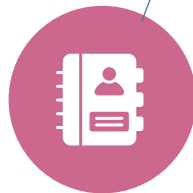
**Expert Group Meeting** on Equipment held in September 2024



**PICS tutorials** in various UN languages, including one tutorial on entering and searching for equipment incidents



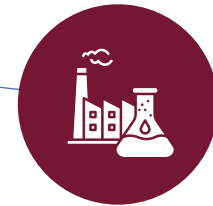
Development of a **Directory of National Authorities**, available on the INCB secure portal, following a survey sent to Member States



Second edition of the **Technical paper on illicit drug manufacturing equipment** and article 13 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988



Publishing an updated version of the **International Monitoring List of Equipment (IMLE)** including HS codes



**Review of categories of industries** involved in the manufacture, trade and distribution of specialized equipment used in the illicit manufacture of drugs



**5<sup>th</sup> Expert Group Meeting (EGM)** on equipment

● Latest INCB initiatives    ● Upcoming INCB initiatives

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# Other existing publications

and reference materials in six languages

## HOW TO ACCESS IT?

You can request a copy for official use to [incb.precursors@un.org](mailto:incb.precursors@un.org) or access the publication through the INCB's Competent National authorities secure portal.

## Guidelines to prevent trade in and the diversion of essential equipment for illicit drug manufacture

These guidelines may assist Governments in increasing the operational use of article 13 of the 1988 Convention by taking appropriate measures to prevent and investigate the diversion of equipment for use in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

## Awareness-raising and guidance document for policy makers: Illicit Drug Manufacturing Equipment and Article 13 of the 1988 Convention

This document provides various options, measures, approaches and tools with a view to guide international policy efforts and action aimed at preventing the diversion of equipment essential for illicit drug manufacture, enhancing the operational use of article 13 of the 1988 Convention, and cooperating to that end.

## HOW TO ACCESS IT?

<https://www.incb.org/incb/en/precursors/materials-and-equipment.html>



# 5 Did you know about these national approaches?



## AUSTRALIA

Prohibition of importation of tablet presses without permission



## COSTA RICA

Registration and prior authorization are required for importing tableting and encapsulating machines



## CANADA

Prior registration of imports relating to pill presses or encapsulators required



## GERMANY

A long-standing voluntary cooperation between the competent authority and the private industry



## MEXICO

Federal law regulating equipment for processing solid, semi-solid or liquid materials into capsules or tablets



## USA

Federal reporting requirement for buying, selling and distribution of pill presses or encapsulating machines

Find more country approaches and legislation [here](#)



# INCB AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## WORKING TOWARDS LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

INCB's activities in the field of equipment align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular with SDG 3, 16 and 17.

