

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1294/11-12(06)

Ref : CB2/PL/SE

Panel on Security

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 13 March 2012**

**Amendments to the Schedules to
the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134)**

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the amendments to the Schedules to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134) ("DDO").

Background

2. According to the Administration, it has put in place an effective legislative and regulatory regime to provide stringent control over the import, export, manufacture, sale and supply of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals. The related legislation and control regimes are constantly reviewed to ensure that they are up-to-date and effective in tackling the changing drug abuse and trafficking trends.

Dangerous Drugs Ordinance

3. DDO was first enacted in the 1960s. A list of dangerous drugs is stipulated under Schedule 1 to DDO. The common types of dangerous drugs are stimulants, hypnotics, tranquilizers and sedatives. Examples are opium, morphine, heroin, cannabis, cocaine and amphetamines.

4. Noting that ketamine and gamma-hydroxybutyric acid were potentially open to abuse, the Administration introduced legislative amendments in December 2000 and October 2001 respectively to amend Schedule 1 to DDO to put the two substances under stringent control.

5. Considering that the derivatives of piperazine, synthetic cannabinoids, and derivatives of cathinone had gained prevalence overseas as substances of abuse or as alternatives to other psychotropic drugs, the Administration introduced legislative amendments in April 2011 to amend Schedule 1 to DDO to specify these substances as dangerous drugs and impose strict control on trafficking, manufacture, possession, supply, import and export of these substances. The manufacture, import and export of these substances require a licence from the Director of Health. Maximum penalties for illicit trafficking and manufacture of these substances are a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment. Possession and consumption of these substances are subject to a maximum fine of \$1 million and imprisonment for seven years.

Latest development

6. The Administration will brief the Panel on Security on its proposal to include gamma-butyrolactone, *Salvia divinorum* and salvinorin-A in Schedule 1 to DDO at the Panel meeting on 13 March 2012.

Relevant papers

7. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in the **Appendix**.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
7 March 2012

**Relevant papers on
Amendments to the Schedules to
the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134)**

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Security	11.11.2010 (Item I)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>

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Legislative Council Secretariat
7 March 2012