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NARCOTICS DIVISION
SECURITY BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES
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(By email)

23 October 2024

Dear Principal,

Regulatory Control of Etomidate and its Analogues (metomidate, propoxate and isopropoxate)

I am writing to update you on the proposed regulatory control on **etomidate, further to the alert on “space oil” (“太空油”) / etomidate vaping with e-cigarettes issued to you in July this year.**

As indicated in the Supplement to the Chief Executive’s 2024 Policy Address published on 16 October, the Government will step up control over the use of etomidate. Having consulted the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN), and taken into account views of the education sector, among other stakeholders, we propose to impose more stringent control on etomidate, and its three analogues, namely metomidate, propoxate and isopropoxate by bringing them all under control of **Part I of the First Schedule to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134)** (the Ordinance) so as to ensure that the law enforcement agencies can effectively respond to the situation and enhance deterrent effect. We aim to effect the legislative amendment in the first half of 2025.

With the tightened regulatory regime on etomidate and its three analogues, any specified registered professionals supplying dangerous drugs would be required to observe the relevant statutory requirements as specified in the Ordinance and the Dangerous Drugs Regulations (Cap. 134A), including **the requirements concerning procurement, labelling, record and storage of dangerous drugs.** Besides, the **penalty imposed on the contravention of the aforementioned requirements for dangerous drugs is much more severe**, for instance, the maximum penalty for contravention of record requirements for dangerous drugs is a fine of \$ 450,000 and imprisonment for three years, whereas that for poisons is a fine of \$ 100,000 and imprisonment for two years. Details of the relevant requirements under the Ordinance and Cap. 134A are available in the “Hong Kong e-Legislation” system provided by the Department of Justice (<http://www.elegislation.gov.hk>).

In view of the latest abuse situation of etomidate among our young people, I appeal for your support to alert teaching staff and school social workers to remain vigilant and observant of any signs of drug use among students, and refer students-at-risk to suitable counselling and treatment programmes as appropriate. If you have any questions concerning "space oil", you are welcome to contact Ms LEUNG So-sum, Assistant Secretary of the Security Bureau at 2867 2755.

Let's stand firm, knock drugs out!

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kesson Lee', written in a cursive style.

(Kesson Lee)
Commissioner for Narcotics