Drug Status Report

Drug: Alpha-phenyl-alpha-pyridyl-(2)-acetonitrile

Drug Name Status: Alpha-phenyl-alpha-pyridyl-(2)-acetonitrile is the common name.

Chemical Name: 2-Phenyl-2-(2-pyridyl)acetonitrile

Chemical structure:

Molecular Formula: $C_{13}H_{10}N_2$

Pharmacological class / Application: pharmaceutical related substance

International status:

US: The substance is not listed on the schedules to the US Controlled Substances Act and is not mentioned on the DEA website.

United Nations: The substance is not listed on the Yellow List - List of Narcotic Drugs under International Control nor on the Green List - List of Psychotropic Substances under International Control.

Canadian Status: Methylphenidate is included in Schedule III as item 2, "Methylphenidate (a-Phenyl-2-piperidineacetic acid methyl ester) and any salt thereof." Alpha-phenyl-alpha-pyridyl(2)-acetonitrile is a precursor to methylphenidate, not a salt of methylphenidate.

Recommendation: Alpha-phenyl-alpha-pyridyl(2)-acetonitrile is not included in item 2 of Schedule III to the CDSA and is not a controlled substance.

May 12, 2008