STATUS DECISION OF CONTROLLED AND NON-CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE(S)

Substance: Camphor oil

Based on the current information available to the Office of Controlled Substances, it appears that the above substance is:

- Controlled ✓
- Not Controlled ☐

under the schedules of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) for the following reason(s):

- Camphor oil contains more than 4% safrole and is therefore included under item 17 of Part 1 of Schedule VI to the CDSA and considered a Class A Precursor.

Prepared by: ____________________________ Date: September 7th, 2011
Vincent Marleau

Verified by: ____________________________ Date: __________
Mark Kozlowski

Approved by: ____________________________ Date: __________
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

This status was requested by: Tanya Arcand, OCS
Drug Status Report

Drug: Camphor bark tree oil

Drug Name Status: Camphor bark tree oil is the common name.

Chemical Name: Camphor oil

Other Names: Cinnamomum camphora oil; Liquid camphor; Formosa camphor oil; UNII-75IZZ8Y727; UN1130.

Pharmacological class / Application: Essential Oil

CAS-RN: 8008-51-3

International status:

US: Camphor oil is not listed specifically in the Schedules to the US Controlled Substances Act. However, according to the DEA website\(^1\), essential oils rich in safrole, including “brown” camphor oil or camphor oil are included in List I of Regulated Chemicals.

United Nations: The substance is not listed on the Yellow List - List of Narcotic Drugs under International Control, the Green List - List of Psychotropic Substances under International Control, nor the Red List - List of Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Under International Control. However, safrole is listed in Table I of Part I to the Red List and pursuant to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 49/7, this includes safrole and safrole-rich oils which are defined as “any mixture or a natural product containing safrole present is such a way that it can be used or recovered by readily applicable means” and therefore is likely to also include camphor oil.

Canadian Status: Camphor oil is not specifically listed in the CDSA. The substance has been reported in the literature to be used for medicinal purposes (e.g. as an analgesic, antidepressant, anti-inflammatory, antiseptic etc.)\(^2\), and studies have shown that camphor oil from bark and wood contain between 43.3-51.0% safrole, while camphor oil from the leaf

\(^1\)http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/chem_prog/advisories/safrole.htm

contains 0.5% safrole. Safrole is currently listed as item 17 in Part 1 of Schedule VI to the CDSA as “Safrole (5-(2-propenyl)-1,3-benzodioxole) and any essential oil containing more than 4% safrole” and is considered a Class A precursor. As camphor oil from bark contains more than 4% safrole, camphor bark tree oil must be included under item 17 of Part 1 of Schedule VI to the CDSA.

**Recommendation:** Camphor oil is included under the item 17 of Part 1 of Schedule VI to the CDSA and is considered a Class A Precursor.

**Date:** 7 September, 2011

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