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

Substance: **Zolazepam**

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

- Controlled ☐
- Not Controlled X

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

- Although zolazepam has been loosely described as a benzodiazepine this is likely due to its pharmacology. The World Health Organization describes the substance as a “not-true benzodiazepine”. This is because the substance does not contain the essential structural element of a benzodiazepine. Zolazepam cannot therefore be considered a benzodiazepine.

Supporting document attached: **Drug Status Report by Mr. LeBelle**

Prepared by: ____________ Date: Aug. 21, 2006

Xiao Peng Feng

Drug Status Report by: Mr. M. LeBelle Date: August 21, 2006

Approved by: ____________ Date: ____________

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
Drug Status Report

Drug: Zolazepam

Drug Name Status: Zolazepam is the proper name (INN and BAN)

Chemical Name: 4-(2-fluorophenyl)-6,8-dihydro-1,3,8-trimethyl-pyrazolo(3,4-e)(1,4)diazepin-7(1H)-one

Chemical structure:

![Chemical structure image]

Molecular Formula: C_{15}H_{15}FN_{4}O

Pharmacological class / Application: non barbiturate sedative

International status:

US: Tiletamine and zolazepam combination product (telazol) is listed on Schedule III to the CSA.

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

Canadian Status: The drug is currently not listed specifically on the CDSA. Item 18 of Schedule IV to the CDSA is, “Benzodiazepines, their salts and derivatives.” Benzodiazepine has the following structure.

![Benzodiazepine structure image]
In this substance the nitrogen atoms are at the 1 and 2 positions. In the benzodiazepines listed in item 18 of Schedule IV the nitrogen atoms are situated at the 1,4 and 1,5 positions. The 1,4 configuration is shown below.

![1,4-benzodiazepine](image)

Although zolazepam has been loosely described as a benzodiazepine this is likely due to its pharmacology. The World Health Organization describes the substance as a “not-true benzodiazepine”. This is because the substance does not contain the essential structural element of a benzodiazepine. Zolazepam cannot therefore be considered a benzodiazepine.

Zolazepam is similar to zolpidem in having benzodiazepine-like effects but not the essential benzodiazepine structure. Zolpidem is listed separately on Schedule IV as item 25.

Recommendation: Zolazepam is not included in item 18 of Schedule IV to the CDSA and is not a controlled substance.

August 21, 2006