Drug Status Report

**Drug:** *p*-hydroxyphenylethanolamine

**Drug Name Status:** Octopamine is a common name.

**Chemical Name:** $\alpha$-(aminomethyl)-4-hydroxybenezenemethanol

**Other Names:** $\alpha$-(aminomethyl)-$p$-hydroxybenzyl alcohol; 1-($p$-hydroxyphenyl)-2-aminoethanol; norsympatol; norsesyphrine

**Chemical structure:**

![Chemical structure](image)

$p$-hydroxyphenylethanolamine (Norsynephrine)  
$p$-hydroxyphenylmethylaminoethanol (Synephrine)

**Molecular Formula:** \( C_8H_{11}NO_2 \)

**Pharmacological class / Application:** Biogenic amine

**International status:**

US: The drug is not currently listed on the Schedules to the US Controlled Substances Act and is not mentioned anywhere on the DEA website.

United Nations: The drug is not listed on the Yellow List - List of Narcotic Drugs under International Control. The drug is not listed on the Green List - List of Psychotropic Substances under International Control

Canadian Status: *p*-Hydroxyphenylethanolamine is a phenol analog of noradrenaline and is a major neurotransmitter in invertebrates where it is synthesized from *p*-tyramine by the enzymatic action of dopamine-$\beta$-hydroxylase\(^1\). The substance is also found in some foods, namely Bitter Orange (*Citrus aurantium*), and is marketed as a dietary supplement for appetite suppression\(^2\). *p*-Hydroxyphenylethanolamine is not similar to any of the substances listed in the Schedules to

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A review of the $N$-methylated substance, synephrine, also concluded that it was not controlled under the CDSA.

Recommendation $p$-Hydroxyphenylethanolamine is not included in the schedules to the CDSA and is not a controlled substance.

May 17, 2010