

TOPIC No. 8
METHODS OF DIVERSION OF PRECURSOR CHEMICALS
FOR THE ILLICIT PRODUCTIONS OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND
PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

DURATION OF SESSION: 1 HOUR TO 1½ HOURS
SUGGESTED METHOD: LECTURE/CASE STUDIES
TRAINING AIDS: OHP, POWERPOINT PRESENTATION, VIDEO FILM

AIM OF THE SESSION:

The session aims to enlighten the participants on all aspects of diversion of precursor chemicals into illicit channels such as, what makes the diversion easy and possible, the points at which diversions can be made and what are the common methods of diversion.

OBJECTIVE OF THE SESSION:

At the end of the session, the participant will be in a better position to detect attempts to divert precursor chemicals.

POINTS TO BE COVERED:

- The precursor chemicals are vulnerable to diversion into illicit channels for being used in manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
- Possible points of diversion can be as under:
 - (a) From the place of manufacture.
 - (b) At the point of sale.
 - (c) During transportation.
 - (d) During importation.
 - (e) During exportation.
 - (f) During use/consumption.
 - (g) During recycling.
 - (h) During destruction.
- Following factors make diversion of chemicals possible and, at times, quite easy:
 - Substances are not per se illicit;
 - Their use in licit industry is widespread; some isolated attempts at their diversion may go unnoticed.
 - Volume of illicit trade, diversity of trade routes and large number of countries involved in their trade provide good and easy opportunity to make diversion.
 - Mere manipulation of records/documents during the course of

- normal trade can make diversion possible.
- Use of Internet in shopping for precursors provides anonymity to the criminals and this facilitates diversion.
- Common modus operandi of diversion can be:
 - a) Suppression of production and clandestine removal.
 - b) Pilferage from lorries during transportation.
 - c) False reporting of leakage.
 - d) Mis-declaration of description during importation/exportation.
 - e) Use of forged NOCs.
 - f) Use of NOC issued by authority other than the Competent Authority.
 - g) Manipulation of quantity in the NOC.
 - h) Orders against non-existent firms.
 - i) Forging of documents.
 - j) Diversion by indicating over-consumption.
 - k) Use of the name of a bonafide company but specifying false contact address.
 - l) Use of front companies and 'hiding' of small orders of precursors amongst long list of innocuous chemicals.
- Use of internet in facilitating diversion.
- There may be many more methods of diversion.
- Exposure of one deception leads to use of another kind of ruse.
- Vigilance is the key to detection of diversion attempts.