

**TOPIC NO. 17**  
**STORAGE, HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF SEIZED/CONFISCATED**  
**PRECURSOR CHEMICALS – GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

<b>DURATION OF SESSION:</b>	<b>45 MINUTES TO 1 HOUR</b>
<b>SUGGESTED METHOD:</b>	<b>LECTURE</b>
<b>TRAINING AIDS:</b>	<b>OHP, POWERPOINT PRESENTATION</b>
<b>AIM OF THE SESSION:</b>	

The aim of the session is to explain to the participants on the precautions to be taken while storing and disposing of the seized precursor chemicals. The session also provides required information to the participants on ideally safe storage and disposal procedure.

**OBJECTIVE OF THE SESSION;**

At the end of the session, the participants would be in a better position to safely and effectively deal with the storage and disposal of seized/confiscated precursors, including handling accidental emergencies that may sometimes unfortunately arise out of handling and storage of these substances.

**POINTS TO BE COVERED:**

Any procedure for storage and disposal of precursors or controlled substances should take care of at least three aspects:

- Security Aspect
  - The procedure should provide for proper security of the chemicals during their storage. The system should guard against vulnerability of these substances to theft, substitution or natural evaporation.
- Legal Aspect
  - The procedure for storage and disposal of chemical precursors should meet the legal requirements. It should not allow the defendant to take advantage of any circumstances associated with the storage procedure.
- Health, Safety and Environmental Aspect
  - Chemicals can be hazardous. For instance:
    - a) Acetic anhydride is corrosive, burns any area of contact. It is flammable liquid and vapour. It is water reactive. It is harmful if swallowed or inhaled. Its vapour causes respiratory tract irritation and severe eye irritation, may even cause permanent eye damage.
    - b) Potassium permanganate may cause acute eye irritation. It may also cause skin irritation.
    - c) Acetone is an extremely flammable liquid and vapour. Its vapour may cause a flash fire. It is harmful if swallowed or inhaled. It causes

irritation to skin, eyes and respiratory tract. It affects the central nervous system.

- d) Concentrated sulphuric acid is extremely corrosive. Its mist, vapour or liquid can cause severe damage to eyes, nose, throat, mouth, and lungs. Skin contact may cause burns. Contact with eyes can lead to blindness.
- e) Methyl Ethyl Ketone is an extremely flammable liquid. It may cause respiratory tract irritation. It may cause severe eye and skin irritation with possible burns.
- Dangerous properties of all the 23 Table I and Table II substances may be explained during presentations with the help of slides.
- The storage system should, therefore, take sufficient precaution against any harm to the health and physical well being of the officers handling these chemicals.
- Even during disposal of these substances, the method of disposal should be so devised that it meets requirements of environmental regulations, if any, and does not have any adverse impact on ecology.

## **STORAGE**

- **Security aspect**

- Storage place should be secure and guard against pilferage and theft.
- Each godown (storage place) should be placed in the charge of a responsible officer.
- Instructions should provide for periodical inspection and stock verification of the godowns by senior officers.
- Storage should be substance-wise for easy accountability and quick retrieval. Seized container or packet should clearly bear the name of the substance.
- Appropriate containers should be used as some of the chemicals are corrosive or may evaporate.
- Instructions on proper storage and handling during storage and precautions to be taken may be explained with the help of slides in respect of all the 23 Tables I and II substances.

- **Legal Aspect**

- The procedure should clearly provide as to how samples are to be drawn and how the seized material is to be deposited in the storage place or godown
- Procedure should provide that as early as possible (preferably within 48 hours) the seizing officer should deposit the seized substances in the godown.
- The above procedure should guard against possible substitution or tampering. It should be possible to prove that no substitution or

tampering has taken place.

- There should be a foolproof system of giving acknowledgement to the seizing officer of the receipt of the substance, which should certify that the packets or containers were found properly sealed when received by the godown in-charge.
- The godown in-charge should maintain a register where entries of receipt, subsequent issue and movement of substance, for instance for production in the court and final disposal of the chemical precursors, should be made.
- The procedure should provide for periodical reports and returns as these act as good monitoring devices for safe deposit, storage, accounting and disposal of seized precursors and controlled substances.
- **Health, Safety and Environmental Aspect**
  - A written policy statement on storage of precursors from the viewpoint of health, safety and environment should be prepared.
  - Safety rules with regard to each substance need to be prepared and also displayed in the storage place so that safe practices are used.
  - Storage should be substance-wise. Some of these substances may be incompatible.
  - Godowns should be properly ventilated.
  - The godown in-charge and the concerned staff need to be trained about the chemical properties of these substances and their likely consequences.
  - The godown should have standard quality electric wiring and fittings to guard against short-circuits that often cause fires.
  - Smoking should not be allowed inside the godowns.
  - A standard drill to guard against accidental fire should be followed, and staff duly trained in fire fighting. Fire fighting equipment should be installed in the godown and the staff trained in its use, and apprised of the fire fighting media to be use in case of each precursor.
  - The godown in-charge and the concerned staff should be trained in taking normal precautions while dealing with these chemicals.
  - Staff should be trained in first aid measures.
  - During presentations, first aid measures required to be taken in respect of accidents that may arise out of storage and handling of these substances may be explained in respect of all the 23 Table I and Table II substances with the help of slides.
  - Plans and drills should be drawn to deal with emergencies.

## **DISPOSAL**

- The disposal system should provide for legal, safe and ecologically acceptable procedure for these substances.
- Disposal can be by way of sale, but procedure should ensure that disposed

of precursors do not get reverted back to illicit channels.

- Precursors should be disposed of as early as possible.
- If permitted by domestic law, pre-trial disposal should be resorted to.
- Where these chemicals cannot be put to legitimate use and have to be destroyed, the method of disposal has to be safe and environmentally non-injurious and non-hazardous.
- Hence a disposal system for these chemicals has to be devised in consultation with chemical experts and environmental scientists.