

January 2007

Dear

EACD advice on classification of benzylpiperazine (BZP) and related substances

As you will know, I have recently received advice from the Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs (EACD) recommending that BZP be classified as a Class C1 controlled drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975. The EACD also recommended that the classification as a Class C1 drug cover all known analogues and derivatives of BZP and phenylpiperazine.

This advice is on the basis of New Zealand-based research that has shown that BZP presents a moderate risk of harm. I have enclosed a copy of the EACD advice.

Should this reclassification occur, all quantities of BZP, phenylpiperazine and related piperazines will be illegal and subject to penalties under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975.

I am writing to manufacturers, retailers, researchers and key stakeholders to elicit your views on this advice, as I recognise that any decision to reclassify BZP may have significant implications for you. I will take into account the submissions I receive before I make my final decision and recommendation regarding the classification of these substances.

I would also ask you to circulate this information to your networks. This letter and the EACD advice can also be found on the National Drug Policy Website www.ndp.govt.nz

Your submission should be sent to:

The National Drug Policy Team
Ministry of Health
PO Box 5013
Wellington.

The closing date for submissions is Friday 23 February 2007. Submissions can also be sent electronically to ndp@moh.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Hon Jim Anderton
Associate Minister of Health