DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Drug Enforcement Administration

[Docket No. DEA 358E]

Controlled Substances: Established Aggregate Production Quotas for 2012

AGENCY: Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Department of Justice.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice establishes the initial 2012 aggregate production quotas for controlled substances in Schedules I and II of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA).

DATES: Effective Date: December 15, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John W. Partridge, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, 8701 Morrissette Drive, Springfield, VA 22152, Telephone: (202) 307-4654.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 306 of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) (21 U.S.C. 826) requires that the Attorney General establish aggregate production quotas for each basic class of controlled substance listed in Schedules I and II. This responsibility has been delegated to the Administrator of the DEA by 28 CFR 0.100.

The 2012 aggregate production quotas represent those quantities that will provide for the estimated medical, scientific, research, and maintenance of reserve stocks for the United States. All aspects of the closed system of distribution must work together to reduce or eliminate the diversion of controlled substances.

Other commenters stated that the proposed aggregate production quotas for alfentanil, amphetamine (for sale), codeine (for conversion), codeine (for sale), dihydrocodeine, dihydromorphone, diphenoxylate, hydromorphone, levorphanol, lidocaine, meperidine, meperidine intermediate A, meperidine intermediate B, meperidine intermediate C, methadone, methadone intermediate, methamphetamine, methylphenidate, morphine (for conversion), morphine (for sale), morphine-N-oxide (for conversion), oxycodone (for conversion), oxycodone (for sale), phencyclidine (for sale), pethidine, pethidine hydrochloride (for sale), pentazocine (for sale), phenylpiperazine (for sale), pharmaceutical substances, and certain chemicals manufactured each year to those quantities that will provide for the estimated medical, scientific, research, and maintenance of reserve stocks for the United States. All aspects of the closed system of distribution must work together to reduce or eliminate the diversion of controlled substances.

The quota system is specifically designed to operate within the statutory framework of the CSA, in conjunction with other controls to enable DEA to monitor the movement of controlled substances and chemicals into and through the closed system of distribution to help prevent diversion of such substances into the illicit market. Through the quota system, DEA limits the amount of those substances and chemicals manufactured each year to those quantities that will provide for the estimated medical, scientific, research, and maintenance of reserve stocks for the United States. All aspects of the closed system of distribution must work together to reduce or eliminate the diversion of controlled substances.

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