



PRESS RELEASE

Private Shipping Company to Pay \$400,000 to Settle Allegations of Transshipping Fentanyl Precursor Chemicals

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

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For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Texas

SAN ANTONIO –IMC Pro International Inc. has agreed to pay \$400,000 to the United States to resolve allegations it violated the Controlled Substances Act through transshipping fentanyl precursor chemicals.

The United States alleged IMC Pro International Inc., a North Carolina-based shipping and logistics company, entered business agreements with several companies operating in China. Under the terms of these arrangements, IMC Pro agreed to provide these Chinese companies with access to IMC Pro's accounts for common carriers in order to generate domestic shipping labels for the final destinations of various goods and products sold or manufactured by the Chinese companies. These labels identified IMC Pro as the company or entity shipping the packages, though IMC Pro did not store or handle the packages at any time, nor did IMC Pro maintain any records concerning the contents of the packages.

The United States became aware of these business agreements after the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration seized five packages in Eagle Pass, identifying IMC Pro as the shipper. Chemical analysis determined the five packages contained a total of 26.4 kgs of 1-BOC-4 Piperidone, a List I Regulated Chemical; and 138.66 kgs of (2-Bromoethyl) benzene, a chemical on the DEA's Special Surveillance List and a laboratory supply within the definition provided under 21 U.S.C § 842(a)(11). Both chemicals are known to be used in the production of fentanyl. The United States alleged its investigation determined these packages were imported into the United States from China, transshipped to Eagle Pass, and intended for transport across the U.S./Mexican border where they were to be sent to be used in the production and manufacture of illicit fentanyl.

"In the face of the fentanyl epidemic, my office will hold both those who distribute illicit fentanyl and those who provide the means to manufacture such substances accountable for their actions," said Acting U.S. Attorney Margaret Leachman for the Western District of Texas. "IMC Pro took on a responsibility to ensure the packages shipped under its name complied with federal laws and regulations. I encourage shipping and logistics companies that may have engaged in similar business arrangements to uphold their own responsibilities and assist in the efforts to stop the flow of fentanyl."

"In addition to going after the drug cartels, DEA will continue to hold companies accountable who make it easy for drug trafficking organizations to get their hands on precursor chemicals to produce deadly synthetic drugs like fentanyl," said Special Agent in Charge Daniel Comeaux for the DEA Houston Division. "This first-of-its-kind settlement exposes loopholes some companies are exploiting to bring poison to our communities."

The settlement includes an affirmation by IMC Pro that it will not engage in similar business agreements with foreign-based entities at any time now or in the future; the affirmation is binding on the company's successors in interest as well. IMC Pro, upon being made aware its domestic shipping accounts had been used to transship fentanyl precursors, immediately took steps to shut down such shipping accounts and end the prior business agreements. IMC Pro is further cooperating with the United States to assist in identifying other instances of transshipment of fentanyl precursors.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Erin Van De Walle negotiated the settlement on behalf of the United States.

The claims resolved by the settlement are allegations only and there has been no determination of liability.

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Contact

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REGULATED TRANSACTIONS - USAO

PRIVATE SHIPPING COMPANY TO PAY \$400,000 TO SETTLE ALLEGATIONS OF TRANSSHIPPING FENTANYL PRECURSOR CHEMICALS

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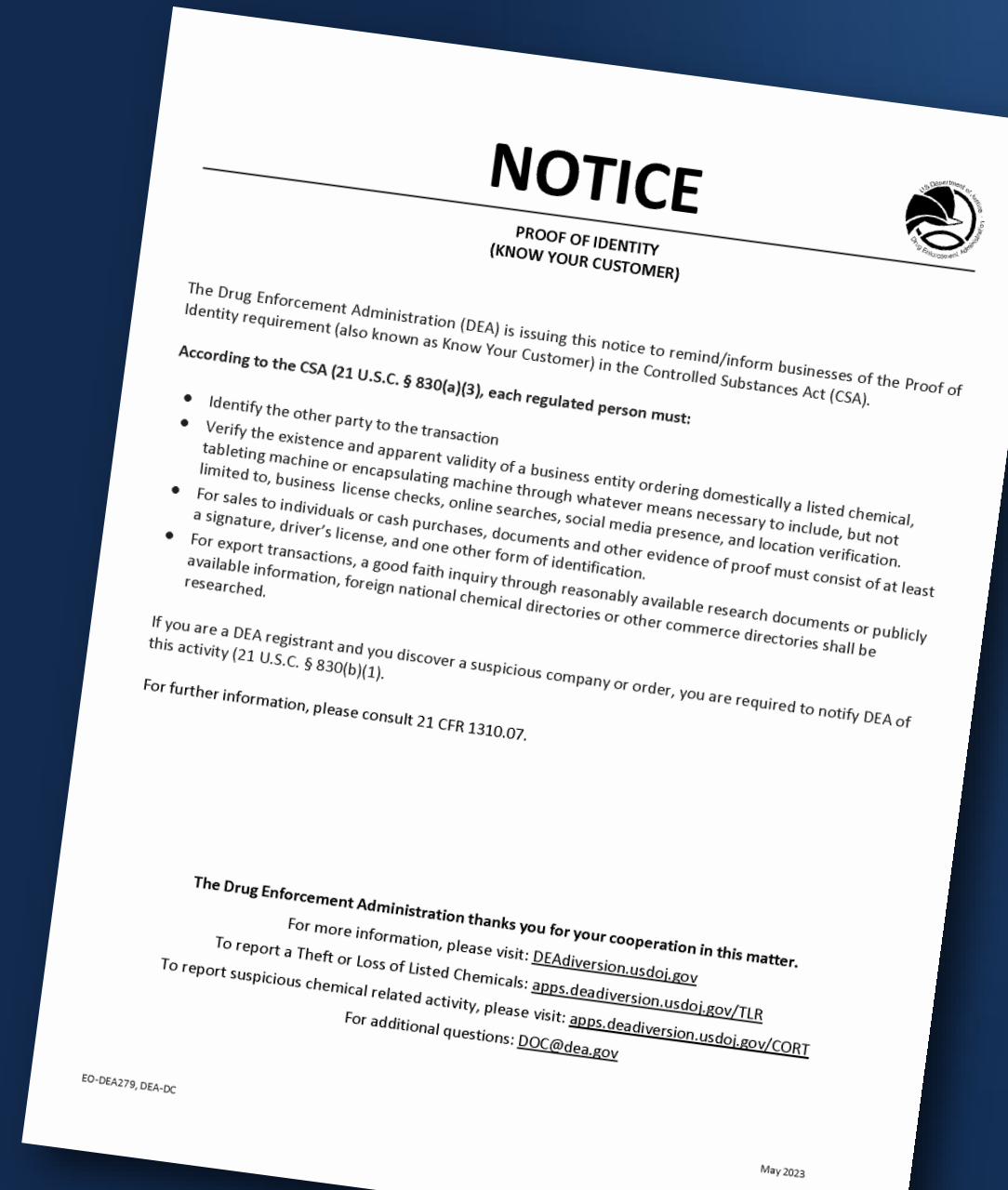


Proof of Identity (Know Your Customer)

Examples of how companies can prove identity

For domestic transactions, this may be accomplished by such methods as online and social media searches, the Chamber of Commerce, a location verification, or, if the business entity is a registrant, by verifying the registration.

- For sales to individuals or cash purchasers, documents and other evidence of proof must consist of at least a signature of the purchaser, a driver's license and one other form of identification.
- DEA's regulations provide options for methods of verification.
- Records of regulated transactions must include the type of identification used by the purchaser.
- Failure to properly identify may result in penalties.





Regulated Person and Regulated Transaction

21 U.S.C. § 802

(38) “Regulated Person” means “a person who manufactures, distributes, imports, or exports a listed chemical....or who acts as a broker or trader for an international transaction involving a listed chemical.....”

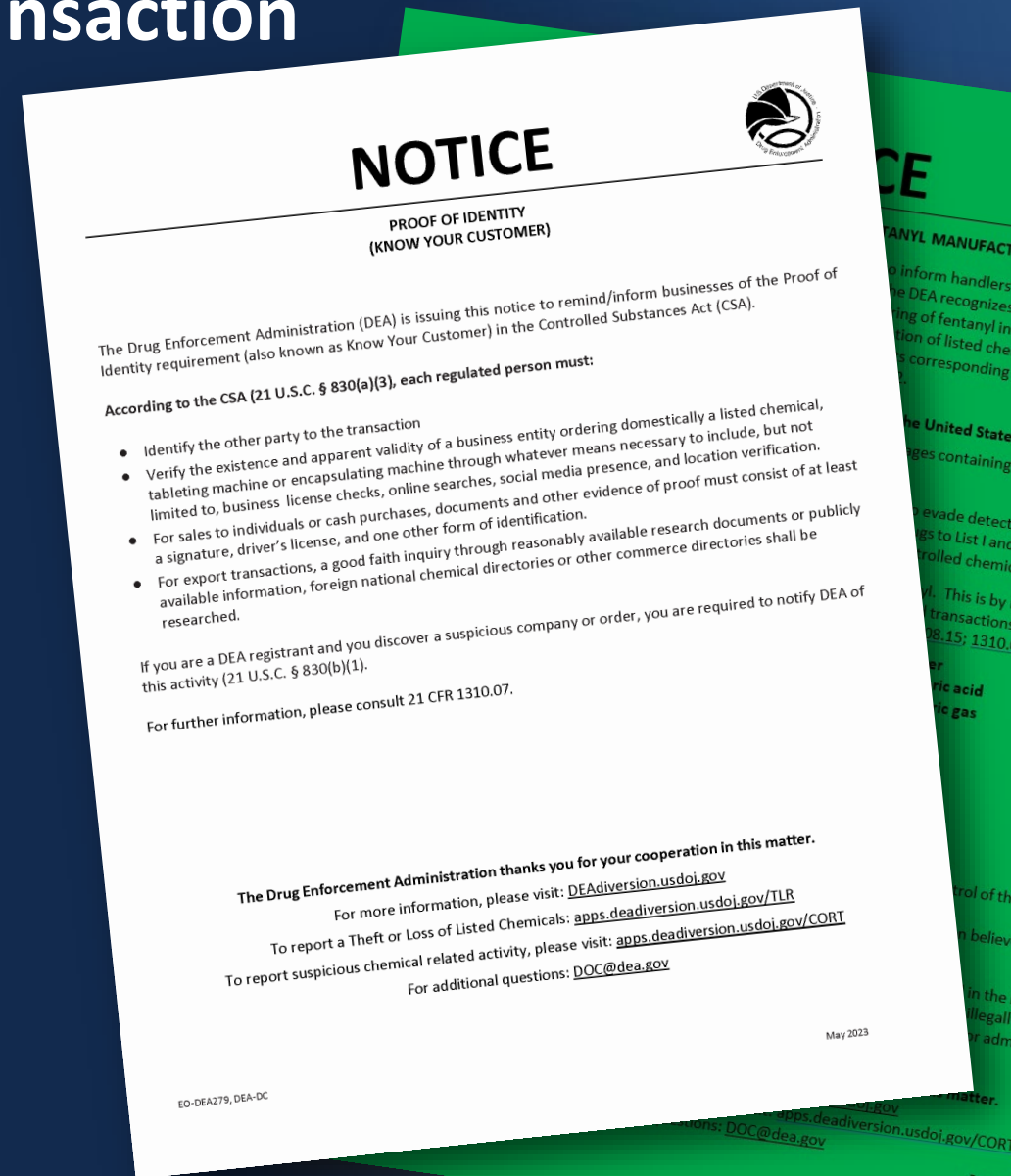
(39) “Regulated Transaction” means “A) a distribution, receipt, sale, importation, or exportation of, or an international transaction involving shipment of, a listed chemical....”

21 U.S.C. § 842 (a) Provides civil penalties

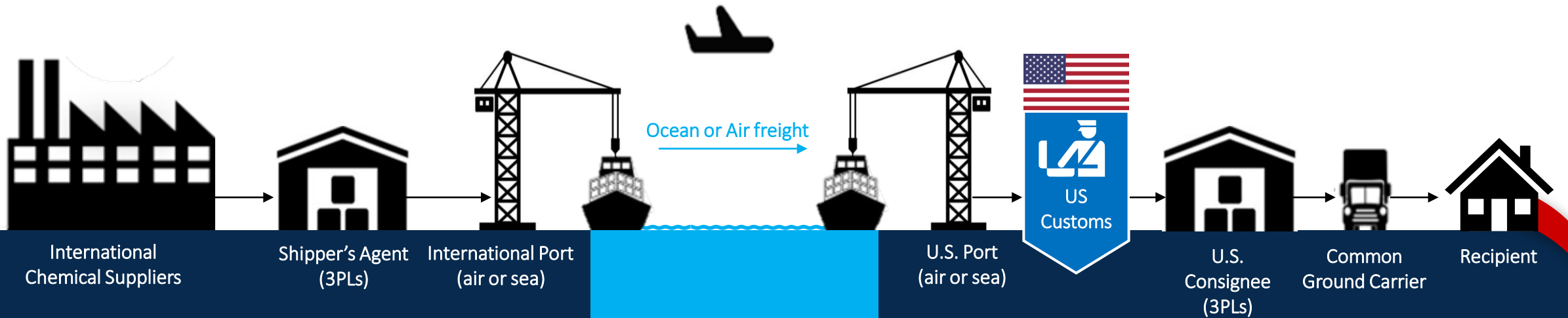
- ✓ (9) Know your customer **\$82,950**
- ✓ (10) Failure to maintain a record, make a report, or self-certify **\$19,246**
- ✓ (11) Distribution of laboratory supply **\$498,516**
- ✓ (15) Failure to register **\$82,950**

21 U.S.C. § 961 Failure to notify Attorney General of chemical importation...

21 U.S.C. § 843 provides for criminal penalties...civil action...declaratory or injunctive relief...



INTERNATIONAL FLOW OF CHEMICALS & THIRD-PARTY LOGISTICS



Fentanyl Pills



Mexican Labs





Listed Chemicals

Currently there are
51
listed chemicals

Listed Chemicals Regulated Under the Controlled Substances Act

See 21 C.F.R. §§ 1309, 1310, 1313 and 1314 for details

Last Update: OCT 2, 2025

Reagent = ▲ DEA Chemical Code Number
 Precursor = ■
 Solvent = ●

Chemical	DEA Chemical Code Number	CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PRODUCED														THRESHOLDS				
		Amphetamine	Cocaine	N,N-Dimethylamphetamine	Ethamphetamine	Fentanyl & analogues	GHF	Heroin	LSD	MDA	MDE	MDMA	Methamphetamine	Methamphetamine	Methcathinone	4-Methylamorex	Phencyclidine (PCP)	Phenyl-2-propanone	THRESHOLDS	THRESHOLDS
1. 1-Boc-4-AP ¹	8336					▲													0	0
2. 1-Boc-4-piperdone ²	8331					▲													0	0
3. 4-Anilinopiperidine ³	8335					▲													0	0
4. 4-Piperdone ^{2,3}	8330					▲													0	0
5. N-Acetylthranilic acid ⁴	8522																		40	40
6. Alpha-Phenylacetacetamide ⁵ (APAA)	8515	▲																	0	0
7. Alpha-Phenylacetacetoneitrile ⁵ (APAAI)	8512	▲																	0	0
8. Anthranilic acid ²	8530																		30	30
9. Benzaldehyde	8256	▲																	4	4
10. Benzyl cyanide	8735																		1	1
11. Benzylfentanyl ¹	8334					▲													0	0
12. Ephedrine ^{1,6,7}	8113					▲													0	0
13. Ergocristine ¹	8612																		0	0
14. Ergonovine ¹	8675																		0.010	0.010
15. Ergotamine ¹	8676																		0.020	0.020
16. Ethylamine ¹	8678					▲													1	1
17. gamma-Butyrolactone (GBL)	2011																		0	0
18. Hydrolic acid	6695																		1.7	1.7
19. Hypophosphorous acid ¹	6797																		0	0
20. Iodine	6699																		0	0
21. Isosafrole	8704																		4	4
22. Methyl alpha-phenylacetacetate (MAPA) ⁸	8795	▲																	0	0
23. Methylamine ¹	8520																		1	1
24. 3,4-Methylene-dioxyphenyl-2-propanone	8502																		4	4
25. N-Methylpseudoephedrine ³	8115					▲													1	1
26. N-Methylpseudoephedrine ³	8119					▲													1	1
27. N-phenethyl-4-piperdone (NPP)	8332					▲													0	0
28. Nitroethane	6724	▲																	2.5	2.5
29. Norpseudoephedrine ³	8317	▲																	2.5	2.5
30. Phenylacetic acid ¹	8791																		1	1
31. Phenylpropanolamine ^{1,6,7}	1225	▲																	0	0
32. Phosphorus (red)	6795																		0	0
33. Phosphorus (white or yellow)	6796																		0	0
34. Piperidine ¹	2704																		0.500	0.500
35. Piperonal (heliotropin)	8750																		4	4
36. PMK glycidate ⁹	8535																		0	0
37. PMK glycidic acid ¹⁰	8525																		0	0
38. Propionic anhydride	8328																		0.001	0.001
39. Pseudoephedrine ^{1,6,7}	8112																		0	0
40. Safrole	8323																		4	4
41. Acetic anhydride	8519																		1.023	1.023
42. Acetone	6532																		150	1,500
43. Benzyl chloride	8570																		1	4
44. Ethyl ether	6584																		135.8	1,364
45. Hydrochloric acid ^{11,6}	6545																		N/C	222.3
46. Hydrogen chloride gas ^{11,6}	6545																		0	27
47. Methyl ethyl ketone (2-Butanone)	6714																		145	1,455
48. Methyl isobutyl ketone ¹	6715																		N/C	1,523
49. Potassium permanganate	6579																		55	500
50. Sodium permanganate	6588																		55	500
51. Sulfuric acid ^{11,6}	6552																		N/C	342
51. Toluene	6594																		150	1,501

¹and its salts

²and its salts and esters

³and its salts, optical isomers, and salts of optical isomers

⁴Exports only to all Western Hemisphere except Canada

⁵Exports to all South American countries & Panama - Domestic for HCl gas

⁶Threshold for HCl acid and sulfuric acid is 50 gallons, the equivalent weight in kilograms to shown

⁷For pseudoephedrine, phenylpropanolamine and sobriene drug products, see 21 USC § 8005(A) and 21 C.F.R. Part 1314

⁸Including its amides, its carbamates, its halides, and its salts

⁹and its optical isomers

¹⁰and its optical and geometric isomers

¹¹and its salts, optical and geometric isomers and salts of optical and geometric isomers

¹²and its salts, amides, carbamates, salts, and salts of acetals, amides, carbamates, and any combination thereof, whenever that existence of such is possible

N/C= Not Controlled

DOMESTIC IMPORTS & EXPORTS KILOGRAMS



DEA's Chemical Control

DEA List I Chemicals

- Have legitimate uses
- Also used to manufacture controlled substances/drugs
- Often labeled as precursors
- Become part of the end product/drug

DEA registration required

- Requires record keeping and suspicious order reporting for importers, exporters, and manufacturers that distribute

DEA List II Chemicals

- Have legitimate uses
- Used in everyday products
- Usually classified as solvents and reagents

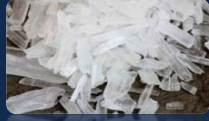
DEA registration not required

- Requires record keeping and suspicious order reporting



DUAL-USE CHEMICALS

Methamphetamine



Benzaldehyde – *Food coloring*
Benzyl chloride – *dyes, pesticides, lubricants*
Methylamine – *cleaning agent, pesticides*
Nitroethane – *propellant, solvent, resin, wax*
Phenylacetic Acid – *drugs, cosmetics, food*
Sulfuric acid – *car batteries, cleansers*

Ammonium chloride – *batteries, fertilizer*
Benzyl alcohol – *preservative, cosmetics, head lice products*
Potassium cyanide – *hardening steel, photography*
Sodium cyanide – *mining, rodenticides*
Tartaric acid – *flavoring agent*

Fentanyl



1-Boc-4-AP – *fentanyl*
ANPP – *fentanyl*
4-Anilinopiperidine (4-AP) – *fentanyl*
4-Piperidone – *fentanyl*
N-phenethyl-4-piperidone (NPP) – *fentanyl*
Propionic anhydride – *dyes, pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals*

***2-Phenethyl bromide** – *pharmaceuticals, fragrances*
***Propionyl chloride** – *agrochemicals, pharmaceuticals*
***Sodium borohydride** – *pharmaceuticals, water management*
Phenethyl chloride – *fragrances, preservative*
Sodium hydroxide – *cleaners, soaps*

**2-Phenethyl bromide, propionyl chloride, and sodium borohydride were placed on the DEA Special Surveillance List on October 24, 2023. This update does not impose any new regulatory burden, nor they require any new recordkeeping.*

List I

List II & SSL

List I

List II & SSL



High-priority precursor chemicals

Methamphetamine



Listed

- Methylamine
- Benzyl chloride
- Benzaldehyde
- Nitroethane

Not Listed

- Lead Acetate
- Ammonium chloride
- Formaldehyde

Cocaine



Listed

- Potassium permanganate
- Methyl ethyl ketone
- Sulfuric acid
- Toluene

Not Listed

- Ethyl acetate
- N-propyl acetate
- Ammonium Hydroxide

Fentanyl



Listed

- 4-anilino-N-phenethyl-4-piperidine (ANPP)
- 4-anilinopiperidine (4-AP)
- N-phenethyl-4-piperidone (NPP)
- Propionic Anhydride
- 4-piperidone

Not Listed

- Aniline
- Propionyl chloride
- Phenethyl bromide

Heroin



Listed

- Acetone
- Acetic anhydride
- Ethyl ether
- Hydrochloric acid
- Methyl ethyl ketone
- Methyl isobutyl ketone

Not Listed

- Acetic acid
- Ammonium Chloride
- Calcium carbonate