



and we understand that equivalent regulations will be introduced there to come into force on the same date.

If your company or organisation imports, exports, possesses, manufactures, produces or supplies these substances (whether on their own or in mixtures/preparations in England, Wales or Scotland you will need to apply for a domestic 'Controlled Drugs' licence to continue. Holding a domestic licence is a pre-requisite for obtaining an import or export licence. Information on domestic controlled drug licensing in Northern Ireland, including application processes, can be found on the Department of Health (NI) website at: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/controlled-drugs>

The process is relatively in-depth and will require a degree of preparation in advance to be able to complete all the necessary stages in the required timescale. However, for those of you who already hold a controlled drug or drug precursor chemical licence, the process will be familiar.

Information and guidance on drug licensing is available at Drugs licensing - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Before you can submit an application for a licence you will need to:

FIRST:

- Register as a customer on the controlled drugs licensing system link here. If your application is successful, you will receive a username and password.
- You do not need to register again each time you apply. If you have forgotten your login details or need your password reset, please email dflu.dom@homeoffice.gov.uk.

You should submit your registration request by 5pm on Friday 14 January 2022 and clearly explain that you are seeking to register "on account of the legislative changes in respect of GBL and 1,4 BD/BDO laid on 15 December 2021."

[1] The ACMD's advice is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/assessment-of-the-harms-of-gamma-hydroxybutyric-acid-gamma-butyrolactone-and-closely-related-compounds>

[2] The Home Office's response is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-the-acmd-on-ghb-gbl-and-closely-related-compounds>

SECOND:

- You must make sure that each person you intend to name on the application form holds a valid Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check or has applied for one before you submit your application.

The DBS check must be done by Security Watchdog. You can contact them on 01420 558 752 to apply for one, or apply online. You must list 'DLCU' (Drug Licensing and Compliance Unit) as the 'interested party'. If you have a DBS check by another company, the Home Office cannot accept that certificate.

- The named functions within the regulations, that you will need to consider, are:
 - Person in-charge
 - Authorised witness
 - Person responsible for security
 - Person responsible for legal compliance

If you, or anyone named on the application, already has a DBS check in place for the purpose of drug licensing dated 3 years or older from Security Watchdog you will need to apply for a new DBS check.

If you have subscribed to the DBS update service, you should include this information in your licence application.

THESE TWO STAGES ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AS WITHOUT BOTH YOU CANNOT SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE SO THESE SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITHIN THE TIMESCALES GIVEN YOU CAN THEN MAKE YOUR DRUG LICENSING APPLICATION.

You should submit your controlled drug licence application by 5pm on Friday 11 February 2022 at the latest.

Kind regards,
Carl Mullender

^^
[From Alex Clark

Yes indeed.

Picon is currently going into overdrive to see if there is anything that we can do, but it looks like legislation will hit us hard by mid year.

Mixtures are particularly hard hit, being previously exempt - this exemption is being lifted, and GBL is I believe going on to Schedule 1.

We are currently gearing up two of our sites in the UK to be fully licenced, despite the fact that we are industrial users.

Our senior officers are going through background checks, to make sure that they are suitable upstanding citizens.

Shortly, we hope to start the formal application which will take 16 weeks to clear at the Home Office.

In that time, we will need to engage with a security specialist, make changes (likely) to the way we store and record, and handle on site security (this may mean rewriting HR contracts etc).

The government are targeting small on-line sales of these substances to crack down on their illicit use in the community.

To be fair, these solvents have been associated with some nasty behaviour in the community.

The reasoning being that if they make it a licence condition, the "good guys" will get licenced and everyone else will be selling it illegally.

Apparently there is a lower threshold "Users licence" for those who do not manufacture or import, but who only use the final product (*eg* in Inks etc).

Ms Patel estimates only 60 entities in the UK will be affected, and it will cost them on average about £10k to implement the changes. It is likely to cost us about £60 k in management time, before we buy a new padlock, so not sure how these estimates were generated.

Very happy for CHCS to pick up the banner and see if they can wring some common sense out of this.

Regards
Alex Clark

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