



Republic of the Philippines  
Office of the President  
**DANGEROUS DRUGS BOARD**

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**BOARD REGULATION NO. 4**  
**Series of 2019**

**SUBJECT: INCLUSION OF GAMMA-BUTYROLACTONE (GBL), AND ALL COMPOUNDS, MIXTURES, OR PREPARATIONS CONTAINING ANY QUANTITY OF THE SAME, BY WHATEVER OFFICIAL, COMMON OR USUAL NAMES, CHEMICAL NAME OR DESIGNATED BRAND NAME, IN THE LIST OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 93, Article XI of Republic Act No. 9165 or “the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002,” the Dangerous Drugs Board (the “Board”) is given the power to reclassify, add to or remove any drug or chemical from the list of dangerous drugs and controlled precursors and essential chemicals;

**WHEREAS**, Gamma-Butyrolactone (“GBL”) is readily convertible both chemically and in the body to Gamma – Hydroxybutyrate (“GHB”), a compound listed in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention;

**WHEREAS**, GBL has widespread industrial use, being a common solvent utilized in the production of industrial cleaners, herbicides and pharmaceuticals;

**WHEREAS**, GBL is sold in liquid form, and often used with other drugs, particularly cannabis, alcohol and ecstasy; and can produce similar effects as the Schedule II compound, GHB;

**WHEREAS**, according to the Critical Review Report conducted by the World Health Organization, GBL is abused as a liquid often falsely presented as GHB during illicit sale, and the former has the capacity to produce a state of dependence with effects similar to the latter;

**WHEREAS**, in the Philippines, GBL is usually mixed with alcoholic drinks and is used during parties where intake of illegal drugs such as methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) and methylenedioxy – methamphetamine (ecstasy) is prevalent;

**WHEREAS**, there are instances where GBL has been used as a “date – rape drug,” and stronger doses thereof can cause sleepiness, confusion, and dizziness, making victims vulnerable to sexual assault;

**WHEREAS**, countries like the United States, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, Italy and Hong Kong have regulated the import, export, manufacture, sale and use of GBL;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) recommended to the Board the inclusion of GBL in the list of controlled substances and has presented evidence in relation to the criteria stated in Section 93 of the Act.

**WHEREFORE, be it RESOLVED,** as it is hereby **RESOLVED,** to include Gamma-Butyrolactone (GBL), and all compounds, mixtures, or preparations containing any quantity thereof, by whatever official name, common name or usual name, chemical name or designated brand name in the list of dangerous drugs.

**RESOLVED FURTHER,** that all distributors, importers, exporters, manufacturers, and end – users mandated to acquire the necessary license/s under Regulation No. 1, Series of 2014 and other relevant Regulations shall be subject to all applicable regulatory control measures issued by the Board in the exercise of its power under Republic Act No. 9165, or “The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.”

This Regulation shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and after its registration with the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR), UP Law Center, Quezon City.

**APPROVED** and **ADOPTED,** this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, in the year of Our Lord, 2019 in Quezon City.

  
**Secretary CATALINO S. CUY**  
Chairman

Attested by:

  
**Undersecretary EARL P. SAAVEDRA**  
Secretary of the Board