

1. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has highlighted a significant rise in the misuse of Etomidate, a short-acting intravenous anaesthetic agent. While currently classified as a prescription-only drug under Schedule H of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules in India, it is increasingly being diverted for illicit use.

2. International enforcement reports indicate that Etomidate is being used in drug-laced e-vaporiser liquids and cartridges, often marketed under names such as

- "K-pods"
- "Space oil"
- "Zombie vapes" or "Zombie cigarettes"

These products have been linked to severe health incidents, violent behavior, and fatalities in various jurisdictions across East and Southeast Asia.

3. Stakeholders are advised to be vigilant regarding the following risks identified by authorities:

- **Regulatory Divergence:** While not currently scheduled under the NDPS Act in India or international drug conventions, many countries have already classified Etomidate as a controlled narcotic drug.
- **Misdeclaration:** There are reports of Etomidate consignments being mis-declared in export documentation to circumvent regulations.

4. It is requested that all stakeholders to adopt the following measures:

- **Enhanced Due Diligence:** Rigorously vet overseas buyers and intermediaries to ensure they are legitimate entities.
- **Accurate Documentation:** Ensure all export documentation reflects the true nature and classification of the products being shipped.
- **Internal Monitoring:** Implement robust internal compliance mechanisms to track the movement of Etomidate and its intermediates, preventing potential diversion or misrepresentation in trade
