



UNITED NATIONS

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

PROMULGATED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE
CONVENTION OF 13 JULY 1931 FOR LIMITING THE MANUFACTURE
AND REGULATING THE DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS, AS
AMENDED BY THE PROTOCOL OF 11 DECEMBER 1946

CUBA

COMMUNICATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF

CUBA

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In accordance with Article 21 of the Convention of 13 July 1931 for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the Protocol of 11 December 1946, the Secretary-General has the honour to communicate the following legislative text.

New York, 1953

REPUBLIC OF CUBA

MINISTRY OF STATE
United Nations Office

CIRCULAR No. 847

Havana, 9 June 1951

To the Head of the Local Health Office

Sir,

The National Board of Health and Social Welfare at a meeting held on 3 April 1951 adopted the following resolution:

"By resolution of this body dated 9 March 1951 a letter from the Chief of the Narcotic Drugs Section was referred for an opinion to the undersigned Pharmaceutical Member. This letter submitted for the Board's consideration a request by Audrain y Medina S.A., import merchants with a drug store at Calle de Neptuno 524 in this city, for the necessary authorization to import into Cuba from Great Britain the pharmaceutical speciality called 'Pethidine Hydrochlorate', manufactured by Imperial Chemical Industries (Pharmaceuticals) Ltd., Manchester, England.

"With regard to this request, I have the honour to inform you that:

"Pethidine hydrochlorate is a synthetic substance with analgesic properties possessing many of the pharmacological properties of morphine, although it has less analgesic strength than the latter. It corresponds chemically to the ethyl ether hydrochlorate of 1 - methyl - 4 phenylpiperidine - 4 carboxylic acid.

"This product, described in the British Pharmacopoeia as pethidine hydrochlorate, is included in the fourteenth edition of the United States pharmacopoea, 1950, page 339. It has also been accepted by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association and included in that Association's book 'New and Non-official Remedies', 1950, pages 37-39.

"It is also known under the names: meperidine hydrochlorate, meperidine chloride, isonipecaïne and others. It also has various commercial names or trademarks such as 'dolantin', of European manufacture, and 'demerol' (Winthrop-Stearns), of American manufacture, the sale of the latter being already authorized in Cuba.

"Examination shows that it must be considered as a narcotic similar to morphine, so that its handling and sale should be subject to the same restrictions and limitations as apply to morphine. I therefore recommend that the National Board authorize the import into and distribution in Cuba of pethidine hydrochlorate subject to the provisions in force for the control of narcotics.

"Notwithstanding, the Board will decide on the basis of its superior judgment what is the best course to take.

(signed) Dr. Francisco de la Carrera,
Pharmaceutical Member"

The foregoing resolutions of the National Board of Health and Social Welfare having been approved by the Minister, I hereby communicate it to you for your information and compliance.

I have the honour, etc.

(signed) Dr. Luis Espinosa y G. Cáceres
Director General of Health
(Seal of the Ministry of Health
and Social Welfare)

REPUBLIC OF CUBA

MINISTRY OF STATE
United Nations Office

CIRCULAR No. 849

Havana, 2 July 1951

To the Head of the Local Health Office

Sir,

The National Board of Health and Social Welfare at a meeting held on 18 May 1951 adopted the following resolution:

"By resolution of this body on 16 March 1951 a letter submitted by Dr. Andres Calderin, the chief chemist in Cuba of Glaxo Laboratories, England, addressed to the Chief of the Narcotic Drugs Section, was referred for an opinion to the undersigned Pharmaceutical Member. The letter refers to the difficulties experienced in the importation of the product described as heptalgin.

"I have to inform you that heptalgin consists of a synthetic substance with analgesic properties possessing many of the pharmacological properties of morphine, though having less analgesic strength than the latter. It corresponds chemically to 6 - Morpholine 4 - 4 diphenyl - 3 heptatone hydrochlorate.

"As a result of experiments carried out by W.M. Wilson and R.B.Hunter (Clinical Laboratory, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh) it has been ascertained that it is a powerful analgesic comparing favourable with physeptone (Lilly's dolophine and Parke Davis' diamion) and apparently more active than pethidine under the same experimental conditions.

"Dolophine and diamion, both commercial names for methadone hydrochlorate (6 dimethylamine 4 - 4 diphenyl 3 - heptanone) differ from each other only in the radical morpholine, a hexagonal aniline derived from two molecules of ethanolamine, which is replaced in the two last-mentioned products by the radical dimethylamine, but which is located in both cases in the same carbon atom.

"Since the importation into Cuba of dolophine (Lilly), diamion (Parke Davis) and pethidine have been authorized by this Board under the restrictions applying to narcotic products, and since heptalgin is similar to the first two products and more active than the third, it should also be imported into Cuba under the same restrictions as applied to the others, that is, as a narcotic product, especially as its sale is subject in England, the country of origin, to the provisions in force for the restriction of narcotics and as the World Health Organization has decided to include it among the substances which require a certificate of exportation from the country of origin.

"If future clinical experience should show that these products are not habit-forming, and that they do not fall under the provisions of the 1931 Convention on narcotics, it would be possible to introduce special legislation on their handling otherwise than as prudence dictates at this moment."

The foregoing resolution of the National Board of Health and Social Welfare having been approved by the Minister, I am communicating it to you for your information and compliance.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Dr. Luis Espinosa y G. Cáceres
Director General of Health
(Seal of the Ministry of Health
and Social Welfare)