How generic narcotics laws (do not) influence the legal high market

Column:

Software:

MS-library

Sebastian Halter, Verena Angerer, and Volker Auwärter Institute of Forensic Medicine, Medical Center – University of Freiburg, Faculty of Medicine, University of Freiburg, Germany

Introduction

New psychoactive substances (NPS) have become a substantial part of the drug market for many years now. They are mainly distributed via online shops on the Internet in form of products like herbal blends, bath salts, and e-liquids or in pure form (called research chemicals). The German law on new psychoactive substances (NpSG), which came into force on 26th November 2016, controls two substance groups of NPS defined by their chemical structure. Since the end of November, trading with synthetic cannabinoids and substances derived from 2-phenethylamine is punishable by this new law. In the frame of the EU-project 'SPICE Profiling' which covers a systematic monitoring of the online market, the products mentioned above were bought and analyzed. The aim was to investigate the influence of the NpSG on the online market, especially referring to the offer of NPS covered by the NpSG and new NPS which are currently not covered.

Definition of synthetic cannabinoids in the NpSG^[1]

A synthetic cannabinoid is defined as any chemical compound which consists of a structure made up of a core structure, a bridge (linker), a residual group and a side chain.



Total: 322 E-Liquids: 16 'Legal hash': 13 Herbal blends: 293

Total: 68 E-Liquids: 0 'Legal hash': 2 Herbal blends: 66

Total: 254 E-Liquids: 16 'Legal hash': 11 Herbal blends: 227





Institute of Forensic Medicine **Forensic Toxicology**