

## Storage and distribution of Controlled Drugs (CD)

Some prescription medicines are classified as controlled drugs e.g. morphine, pethidine and methadone. These medicines are prone to being misused, so have stricter legal controls on their supply to prevent them being obtained illegally.

If you handle a Controlled Drug (CD) there are some additional regulations that govern how the medicine can be supplied to you that are important for you to know.

Any company that wishes to produce, supply or possess controlled drugs in the UK will need a Home Office domestic licence. This is separate from a Wholesaler Dealer's Licence (WL), though you will need a WL and it should have CD indicated on it.

Controlled Drugs are classified into one of 5 categories (called schedules) by the Home Office, and which category your product falls in defines some of the precautions you must take.

There are particular Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that relate to CDs that you will require in place. Once they have received your online application it will be assessed to ensure that the security and record-keeping requirements have been met, and the Home Office will come and inspect that you are ready before granting a licence. You should allow 8 weeks for your application to be processed.

Once operating there are standard forms to report annual use and any theft or unaccounted loss to the Home Office. If you need to import or export a CD you will need to apply for a licence for that specific import or export.

\* "Rules & Guidance for Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Distributors 2007"

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HTF Associates specialises in the Supply Chain operation in the Pharma Industry. This includes outsourced supply chain management, obtaining a Wholesaler Dealer's Licence (WL) from the MHRA, selecting pre-wholesalers and advice on all aspects of Supply Chain Management in the pharmaceutical industry.

**For further information and help on this topic contact HTF Associates at [enquiry@htfassociates.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@htfassociates.co.uk)**