



GAMMA-BUTYROLACTONE - GBL

WHAT IS GBL?

GBL is a chemical compound, which metabolises to produce Gamma-Hydroxybutyric (GHB) acid. **GHB** is a central nervous system (CNS) depressant with **sedative and anaesthetic qualities**.

THINGS TO KNOW

- GBL and GHB **look identical** and are often sold as **colourless oily liquids**.
- GBL has **legitimate industrial uses** and is still available for these purposes with appropriate business licences. Possession of GBL for human consumption has penalties of up to 2 years in prison and/or an unlimited fine. Supply holds penalties of up to 14 years in prison and/or an unlimited fine.
- GHB is often referred to as “**Liquid Ecstasy**”, “**Coma in a Bottle**” and “**GEEB**”.
- There has been increased reporting of smoking paper laced with GBL including alloy wheel cleaner, rust remover, cockroach killer powder and acetone, or a combination of these. There appears to be **increased awareness amongst prisoners** of the efficacy of these chemicals.

ALLOY WHEEL CLEANER

The **main ingredient is GBL** and can be bought for £10 per litre. It is reported that one A4 sheet sprayed with alloy wheel cleaner can be sold for **£600 in prisons**.



OPERATIONAL PRACTICE

REPORTING

Record GBL finds and intelligence on Mercury or IRS.

DEVELOP LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

Understand any nominals who have been linked to the supply/demand of GBL.

HEALTHCARE

Alert healthcare staff to the potential and effects of GBL.

DRUG TREATMENT

Work with drug services to understand the levels of drug use and potential risk of GBL.

STAFF HEALTH & SAFETY

Use secondary exposure and toxicology advice to review local H&S risk assessments. Ensure staff are aware of GBL risks and how to react to an exposure.

SEARCHING

Staff should wear gloves when conducting searches and manual investigative work in the presence of GBL.

RESPONSE PLAN

Treat what you see. Work with healthcare staff to produce a contingency response plan. Loss of consciousness is common with GBL use.

GBL PRODUCTS

Determine if you have legitimate products containing GBL and assess whether appropriate to keep these products or source suitable alternatives. If retaining, ensure control measures and assurances are in place to mitigate any risks.