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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
DANGEROUS DRUGS BOARD

BOARD REGULATION NO. 1
SERIES OF 2025

SUBJECT: INCLUSION OF BUTONITAZENE IN THE LIST OF DANGEROUS DRUGS

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a party to the three (3) United Nations International Drug Control Conventions: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;

WHEREAS, the Conventions aim to put in place mechanisms to address the problem of drug production, trafficking, and use of illicit substances;

WHEREAS, the Conventions provide that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs ("CND") shall have the power to change the scope of control of substances through amendment of the Schedules annexed to each Convention, and party-states shall take such measures to give effect and carry out the regulatory mechanisms provided for substances listed in the Schedules of the Conventions;

WHEREAS, Butonitazene (IUPAC name: 2-(2-(4-butoxybenzyl)-5-nitro-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)-N,N-diethylethan-1-amine), also known as butoxynitazene, is a benzimidazole-derived synthetic opioid;

WHEREAS, Butonitazene has a chemical structure and pharmacological action similar to those of drugs under Schedule I of the 1961 United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, including etonitazene and isotonitazene;

WHEREAS, Butonitazene belongs to a series of 2-benzylbenzimidazole derivatives with analgesic properties, originally synthesized in the late 1950s;

WHEREAS, despite its structural similarity to other potent opioids, there are no known therapeutic or industrial uses of Butonitazene, and there has been no marketing authorization for the substance;

WHEREAS, the presence of Butonitazene was confirmed in one post-mortem case, in which the cause of death was attributed to an overdose of metonitazene[1];

WHEREAS, Butonitazene is not currently controlled under the 1961, 1971, or 1988 United Nations Conventions;

[1] **World Health Organization.** (2023). *Critical review report: Butonitazene*. Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, Forty-sixth Meeting, Geneva, 16–20 October 2023.

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WHEREAS, during the 67th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotics Drug (UN-CND) held from 14 to 22 of March 2024, it was agreed that Butonitazene be included in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol[2];

WHEREAS, Board Regulation No.1, Series of 2020, prescribed the immediate adoption of changes in the scope of control of substances pursuant to the three (3) United Nations International Drug Control Conventions and authorized the DDB Chairperson to issue a Regulation for such purpose, provided that the DDB Chairperson and/or the DDB Executive Director shall inform the Board of the issuance of such Regulation.

WHEREFORE, be it **RESOLVED,** as it is hereby **RESOLVED,** to adopt the action of the UN-CND placing **Butonitazene** in the list of dangerous drugs and all compounds, mixtures, and preparations containing this substance, including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers, be classified as dangerous drugs which shall be subjected to all regulatory and control measures provided for in Republic Act No. 9165, as amended, and its implementing rules and regulations.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** this 24 day of March in the year of Our Lord, 2025, in Quezon City.

Secretary OSCAR F. VALENZUELA
Chairperson

Attested by:

Undersecretary EARL P. SAAVEDRA, CESO I
Board Secretary / Executive Director

[2] **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.** (2024). *Resolutions and decisions (2020–2029)*. United Nations. From https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/Resolutions_Decisions/resolutions-and-decisions-2020-2029.html

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