U.P. LAW CENTER
OFFICE of the NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER
Administrative Rules and Regulations
REGISTERED
MAY 08 2025
No. 25-0510
ONAR Registration
TIME: 1015 BY:

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
DANGEROUS DRUGS BOARD

BOARD REGULATION NO. 5
SERIES OF 2025

SUBJECT: INCLUSION OF BROMAZOLAM 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, Bromazolam (Chemical Abstracts Service [CAS] registry number: 71368-80-4; CAS name: 8-bromo-1-methyl-6-phenyl-4H-S-triazolo[4,3-a][1,4]benzodiazepine) is a triazolobenzodiazepine originally developed as a candidate medication but never approved for medical use;

WHEREAS, Bromazolam is not currently under international control but is classified as a Schedule IV substance under Canadian law, controlled under psychoactive drug regulations in Germany and the United Kingdom, and subject to enhanced monitoring by federal drug agencies in Finland and the USA due to a rising trend in reported use;

WHEREAS, Bromazolam has been analytically confirmed in post-mortem toxicology reports in Canada, Finland, and the USA, with detections in over 250 toxicological cases between 2019 and 2022 in the USA alone, of which a significant portion involved co-detection with fentanyl;

WHEREAS, Bromazolam has been found in illicitly marketed tablets mislabeled as other benzodiazepines, such as falsified alprazolam and diazepam, raising concerns about its unregulated distribution and potential health risks;

WHEREAS, the available pharmacological data indicate that Bromazolam acts as a positive allosteric modulator of the GABA_A receptor, similar to other benzodiazepines, with in vivo studies showing potency comparable to diazepam;

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WHEREAS, the increasing detection of Bromazolam in forensic and toxicological cases, particularly in combination with other substances, poses a potential public health concern, necessitating further regulatory review and monitoring[1];

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 Bromazolam be included in Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[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 **Bromazolam** 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

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