

CHAPTER 101

DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE

To amend and consolidate the law relating to the importation, exportation, manufacture, sale and use of opium and other dangerous drugs.

1st September, 1939

ORDINANCE XXXI of 1939, as amended by Legal Notice 4 of 1963; Acts: XLVIII of 1975, XI of 1977, [XXIII of 1980](#), [XLIX of 1981](#) and [XIII of 1983](#); Legal Notice [32 of 1984](#); Act [VIII of 1986](#); Legal Notice [58 of 1988](#); Act [VIII of 1990](#); Legal Notices: [49](#), [93 of 1990](#); Acts [VI of 1994](#), [XVI of 1996](#), [II of 1998](#), [VI of 2000](#); Legal Notice [148 of 2000](#); Act [III of 2002](#); Legal Notices [278 of 2003](#), [1 of 2004](#); Acts [XVI of 2006](#), [XXIV](#), [XXXI of 2007](#); Legal Notices [373](#), [409 of 2007](#), [331 of 2009](#); Acts [IV](#), [XXIV of 2014](#), [VIII of 2015](#); Legal Notices [49 of 2016](#), [359](#), [360 of 2017](#), [43 of 2018](#), [230 of 2018](#) [389 of 2018](#) [V of 2019](#) and Legal Notice [189 of 2019](#) and [119](#) and [120 of 2021](#), [165 of 2022](#) and [156 of 2023](#) and Acts [XXXI of 2019](#), [IV of 2020](#), [VIII of 2020](#), [V of 2021](#), [XXXVI of 2021](#) and [LXVI of 2021](#) and Legal Notice [179 of 2024](#) and Acts [VII](#) and [XII of 2025](#) and Legal Notice [97 of 2025](#).

ARRANGEMENT OF ORDINANCE

		Articles
	Title and Interpretation	1-2
Part I.	Raw Opium and Coca Leaves	3-4
Part II.	Prepared Opium	5-6
Part III.	Cannabis	7-8
Part IV.	Cocaine, Morphine, etc.	9-11
Part V.	Control of External Trade	12-19
Part VI.	General	20-34
	First Schedule	
	Second Schedule	
	Third Schedule	

Short title.

1. The short title of this Ordinance is the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance.

Interpretation.

Amended by:

XXIII. 1980.2;

VI.1994.2.

V.2019.5;

LXVI.2021.24;

XII.2025.3.

2. (1) In this Ordinance unless the context otherwise requires -

"coca leaves" means the leaves of the *Erythroxylum Coca Lamarek* and the *Erythroxylum Novogranatense* (Morris) *Hieronymus* and their varieties belonging to the family of *Erythroxylaceae* and the leaves of other species of this genus from which cocaine can be extracted either directly or by chemical transformation;

"Cannabis" means the inflorescence and leaves of any plant of the genus *Cannabis* and includes any resin obtained from the said plant and any preparations derived from the said plant, but does not include its seeds, or inflorescence, leaves, extracts and products derived from non-psychoactive phytocannabinoids containing not more than zero point two (0.2) percent of psychoactive cannabinoids;

Provided that synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cannabinoid products, in any form or manner of presentation, including but not limited to any matter originally derived from the cannabis plant which has been processed, refined or otherwise chemically altered, as well as manufactured products, edible products, liquids, powders, or vapourisable substances, shall be deemed to constitute a prohibited drug punishable in the same manner and to the same extent as offences relating to cannabis;

"drug" means any of the following:

- (i) a substance covered by the 1961 United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, or by the 1971 United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances;
- (ii) any of the substances listed in the Annex to the Council Framework Directive 2004/757/JHA;

"export", with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, in relation to Malta, means to take or cause to be taken out of Malta in any manner whatsoever;

"import", with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, in relation to Malta, means to bring or cause to be brought into Malta in any manner whatsoever;

"medicinal opium" means raw opium which has undergone the processes necessary to adapt it for medicinal use in accordance with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia, whether it is in the form of powder or is granulated or is in any other form and whether it is or is not mixed with neutral materials;

"new psychoactive substance" means a substance in pure form or in a preparation that is not covered by the 1961 United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, or by the 1971 United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances which may pose health or social risks similar to those posed by the substances covered by those Conventions;

"non-psychoactive phytocannabinoids" means such products as the Minister responsible for the [Authority on the Responsible Use of Cannabis Act](#) may by regulations, from time to time, include in Part I of the Fifth Schedule to this Ordinance; Cap. 628.

"preparation" means a mixture containing one or more new psychoactive substances;

"prepared opium" means opium prepared for smoking and includes dross and any other residues remaining after opium has been smoked;

"psychoactive cannabinoids" means such products as the Minister responsible for the [Authority on the Responsible Use of Cannabis Act](#) may by regulations, from time to time, include in Part II of the Fifth Schedule to this Ordinance; Cap. 628.

"raw opium" means the spontaneously coagulated juice obtained from the capsules of the *Papaver Somniferum* L., which has only been submitted to the necessary manipulations for packing and transport, whatever its content of morphine;

"synthetic cannabinoids" means fully synthetic or semi-synthetic cannabinoids, whether or not they occur naturally in trace amounts in the cannabis plant, that are chemically processed or refined to act on cannabinoid receptors and produce psychoactive effects, as the Minister responsible for the Authority on the Responsible Use of Cannabis Act may, by regulations made from time to time, include in Part III of the Fifth Schedule to this Ordinance;

"the Single Convention" means the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs adopted at New York on the 30 March, 1961 as subsequently amended by the Protocol adopted in Geneva on the 25 March, 1972.

(2) In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires, any reference to this Ordinance shall be deemed to include a reference to rules made thereunder.

PART I

RAW OPIUM AND COCA LEAVES

3. (1) The Minister responsible for public health may make rules for controlling or restricting the production, possession, sale and distribution of raw opium or coca leaves, and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, for prohibiting the production, possession, sale or distribution of raw opium or coca leaves except by persons licensed or otherwise authorised in that behalf.

(2) The Minister responsible for public health may fix such penalties for the breach or non-observance of any rule as he may think fit, not exceeding imprisonment for one month or a fine (*multa*) of three hundred and forty-nine euro and forty-one cents (349.41).

Power to regulate the production of and dealing in raw opium and coca leaves.

Amended by:
L.N. 4 of 1963;
XI. 1977.2;
XLIX. 1981.4;
XIII. 1983.5;
L.N. 409 of 2007.

Prohibition of cultivation of opium or coca plant.

4. No person shall cultivate the opium poppy (*papaver somniferum*) or the coca plant (*Erythroxylum Coca*).

PART II

PREPARED OPIUM

Prohibition of exportation of prepared opium.

5. No person shall import or bring into, or export from Malta any prepared opium.

Penalty for manufacturing, selling, using, etc. prepared opium.

6. If any person -

- (a) manufactures, sells or otherwise deals in prepared opium; or
- (b) has in his possession any prepared opium; or
- (c) being the occupier of any premises permits those premises to be used for the purpose of the preparation of opium for smoking or the sale or smoking of prepared opium; or
- (d) is concerned in the management of any premises used for any such purpose as aforesaid; or
- (e) has in his possession any pipes or other utensils for use in connection with the smoking of opium, or any utensils for use in connection with the preparation of opium for smoking; or
- (f) smokes or otherwise uses prepared opium, or frequents any place used for the purposes of opium smoking,

he shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance.

PART III

CANNABIS

Substituted by:
LXVI.2021.25.

Prohibition of importation and exportation of the resin from the plant *Cannabis*.

7. No person shall import or bring into, or export from, Malta any resin obtained from the plant *Cannabis*.

Amended by:
XXIII. 1980.6;
LXVI.2021.25.

Penalty for dealing in, etc., the plant *Cannabis*.
Substituted by:
XXIII. 1980.3.

8. If any person -

- (a) has in his possession (otherwise than in the course of transit through Malta or the territorial waters thereof the resin obtained from the plant *Cannabis* or any preparations of which such resin formed the base; or
- (b) produces, sells or otherwise deals in the resin obtained from the plant *Cannabis* or any preparations of which

such resin formed the base; or

- (c) cultivates the plant *Cannabis*; or
- (d) has in his possession (otherwise than in the course of transit through Malta or the territorial waters thereof) the whole or any portion of the plant *Cannabis* (excluding its medicinal preparations); or
- (e) sells or otherwise deals in the whole or any portion of the plant *Cannabis* (excluding its medicinal preparations),

he shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance.

PART IV

COCAINE, MORPHINE, ETC.

9. (1) For the purpose of preventing the improper use of the drugs to which this Part of this Ordinance applies, the Minister responsible for public health may make rules for controlling the manufacture, sale, possession and distribution of those drugs, and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, for -

Control of
manufacture and
sale of cocaine.
Amended by:
L.N. 4 of 1963;
XI. 1977.2.

- (a) prohibiting the manufacture of any drug to which this Part of this Ordinance applies except on premises licensed for the purpose and subject to any conditions specified in the licence; and
- (b) prohibiting the manufacture, sale or distribution of any such drug except by persons licensed or otherwise authorized under the rules and subject to any conditions specified in the licence or authority; and
- (c) regulating the issue by medical practitioners of prescriptions containing any such drug and the dispensing of any such prescriptions; and
- (d) requiring persons engaged in the manufacture, sale or distribution of any such drug to keep such books and furnish such information either in writing or otherwise as may be prescribed; and
- (e) controlling or restricting the possession of or dealing in any such drug while in transit through Malta.

(2) The rules under this article shall provide for authorizing any person who lawfully keeps open a shop for the retailing of poisons in accordance with the provisions of the [Medical and Kindred Professions Ordinance](#)-

Cap. 31.

- (a) to manufacture at the shop in the ordinary course of his retail business any preparation, admixture, or extract of any drug to which this Part of this Ordinance applies; or
- (b) to carry on at the shop the business of retailing,

dispensing or compounding any such drug,

subject to the power of the Minister responsible for public health to withdraw the authorization in the case of a person who has been convicted of an offence against this Ordinance or of an offence under the [Customs Ordinance](#) as applied by this Ordinance, and who cannot, in the opinion of the Minister responsible for public health properly be allowed to carry on the business of manufacturing or selling or distributing, as the case may be, any such drug.

Cap. 37.

(3) Nothing in any rules made under this article shall be taken-

(a) to authorize the sale, or the keeping of an open shop for the retailing, dispensing or compounding, of poisons by any person who is not qualified in that behalf under, or otherwise than in accordance with, the provisions of the [Medical and Kindred Professions Ordinance](#);

Cap. 31.

(b) to be in derogation of the provisions of the [Medical and Kindred Professions Ordinance](#), for prohibiting, restricting or regulating the sale of poisons.

Cap. 31.

Drugs to which Part IV applies. Amended by: L.N. 4 of 1963; XI. 1977.2; XXIII. 1980.7; XLIX. 1981.6; VI. 1994.3.

10. (1) The drugs to which this Part of this Ordinance applies are those mentioned in the First Schedule hereto.

Calculations of percentage in case of liquid preparations.

(2) For the purpose of this article, percentages in the case of liquid preparations shall, unless other provision in that behalf is made by rules under this Ordinance, be calculated on the basis that a preparation containing one *per centum* of any substance means a preparation in which one gramme of the substance, if a solid, or one millilitre of the substance, if a liquid, is contained in every one hundred millilitres of the preparation, and so in proportion for any greater or less percentage.

(3) Where it appears to the Minister responsible for public health that any other drug of whatever kind is or is likely to be productive, if improperly used, or is capable of being converted into a substance which is, or is likely to be productive, if improperly used, of ill-effects substantially of the same character or nature as or analogous to those produced by the drugs mentioned in the First Schedule hereto, the said Minister may by order in the Gazette make any additions, variations or alterations to such schedule.

(4) If the Minister responsible for public health thinks fit to declare by order that a finding with respect to any preparation containing any of the drugs to which this Part of this Ordinance applies has been communicated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation to the parties to the Single Convention, the provisions of this Part of this Ordinance shall as from such date as may be specified in the order cease to apply to the preparation specified therein.

11. (1) It shall not be lawful for any person to trade in or manufacture for the purpose of trade any products obtained from any of the phenanthrene alkaloids of opium or from the ecgonine alkaloids of the coca leaf, not being a product which was on the 13th July, 1931, being used for medical or scientific purposes:

Provided that if the Minister responsible for public health is at any time satisfied as respects any such products that it is of medical or scientific value, he may by order direct that this sub-article shall cease to apply to that product.

(2) If any person acts in contravention of sub-article (1), he shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance.

(3) If it is made to appear to the Minister responsible for public health that a decision with respect to any such product as is mentioned in sub-article (1) has been communicated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation to the parties to the Single Convention, the Minister responsible for public health, by order, may, as the case requires, either declare that the provisions of this Part of this Ordinance shall apply to that product in the same manner as they apply to the drugs mentioned in article 10(1) or apply the said part to that product with such modification as may be specified in the order.

(4) The Minister responsible for public health may, by order, apply this Part of this Ordinance with such modifications as may be specified in the order, to any of the following drugs, that is to say methymorphine (commonly known as codeine), ethylmorphine (commonly known as dionin) and their respective salts.

Prohibition of trade, etc., in new drugs, and power to apply Part IV with or without modifications, to certain drugs.

Amended by:
L.N. 4 of 1963;
XI.1977.2;
XLIX. 1981.6;
VI.1994.4.

PART V

CONTROL OF EXTERNAL TRADE

12. In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires-

"conveyance" includes ship, aircraft, and any other means of transport by which goods may be brought into or taken from Malta;

"dangerous drug" means any drug to which Part IV of this Ordinance applies, and includes raw opium, coca leaves, cannabis, and all preparations of which resins obtained from cannabis form the base, and, for the purposes of articles 15 to 18 both inclusive, includes also the resins obtained from the cannabis;

"diversion certificate" means a certificate issued by the competent authority of a country through which a dangerous drug passes in transit, authorizing the diversion of such drug to a country other than that specified as the country of ultimate destination in the export authorization, and containing all the particulars required to be included in an export authorization, together with the name of the country from which the consignment was originally exported;

"export", with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, in relation to Malta, means to take or cause to be taken

Interpretation of Part V.

Amended by:
XXIII. 1980.8;
LXVI.2021.25.

out of Malta by air or water, otherwise than in transit;

"export authorization" means an authorization issued by a competent authority in a country from which a dangerous drug is exported, containing full particulars of such drug, and the quantity authorized to be exported, together with the names and addresses of the exporter and the person to whom it is to be sent, and stating the country to which, and the period within which, it is to be exported;

"import", with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, in relation to Malta, means to bring or cause to be brought into Malta by air or water, otherwise than in transit;

"import authorization" means a licence, issued by a competent authority, authorizing the importation of a specified quantity of a dangerous drug and containing full particulars of the drug, together with the name and address of the person authorized to import the drug, the name and address of the person from whom the drug is to be obtained, and specifying the period within which the importation must be effected;

"import certificate" means a certificate substantially in the Form A set out in the Second Schedule hereto, issued by a competent authority in a country into which it is intended to import dangerous drugs;

"in transit" means taken or sent from any country and brought into Malta by air or water (whether or not landed or transhipped in Malta) for the sole purpose of being carried to another country either by the same or another conveyance.

Exportation of
dangerous drugs.
Amended by:
XVI 1960.3;
XXIII. 1980.8;
VI.1994.5.

13. (1) Upon the production of an import certificate duly issued by the competent authority in any country, it shall be lawful for the Chief Government Medical Officer to issue an export authorization in the Form B set out in the Second Schedule hereto in respect of any drug referred to in the import certificate to any person who is named as the exporter in such certificate, and is, under the provisions of this Ordinance, otherwise lawfully entitled to export such drug from Malta. The export authorization shall be prepared in triplicate and two copies shall be issued to the exporter who shall send one copy with the drug to which it refers when such drug is exported. The Chief Government Medical Officer shall send the third copy direct to the appropriate authority of the country of ultimate destination. Subject to the provisions of sub-article (2), it shall be in the absolute discretion of the Chief Government Medical Officer in all cases to issue or refuse an export authorization, as he may see fit.

(2) No dangerous drugs shall be exported from Malta unless the consignor is in possession of a valid and subsisting export authorization relating to such drug granted under this Ordinance.

(3) At the time of exportation of any dangerous drug the exporter shall produce to the Comptroller of Customs the dangerous drug, the export authorization relating thereto, and such other evidence as the Comptroller of Customs may require to satisfy him that the drug is being lawfully exported to the place and person named in the authorization which refers to it.

14. (1) An import authorization in the Form C set out in the Second Schedule hereto permitting the importation into Malta of any dangerous drug specified therein may be granted by the Chief Government Medical Officer, subject to such conditions as he shall deem fit, to any person who may lawfully import such drug.

Importation of dangerous drugs.
Amended by:
XXIII. 1980.8;
VI.1994.6.

(2) Where an import authorization is issued in pursuance of sub-article (1), the Chief Government Medical Officer shall also issue, in relation to the dangerous drug intended to be imported, an import certificate (Form A) which shall be forwarded by the intending importer to the person from whom the drug is to be obtained. When the importer to whom an import authorization is issued under this article intends to import the drug or drugs to which such authorization relates, in more than one consignment, a separate import certificate shall be issued to him in respect of each such consignment.

(3) No dangerous drug shall be imported into Malta unless the person to whom the drug is consigned is in possession of a valid and subsisting import authorization granted in pursuance of this article.

(4) Every dangerous drug imported into Malta shall be accompanied by a valid and subsisting export authorization or diversion certificate.

15. (1) No person shall bring any dangerous drug to Malta in transit unless -

Dangerous drugs, in transit.
Amended by:
XVI. 1960.3;
VI.1994.7.

- (a) the drug is in course of transit from a country from which it may lawfully be exported, to another country into which such drug may lawfully be imported; and
- (b) it is accompanied by a valid and subsisting export authorization or diversion certificate, as the case may be.

(2) Where any dangerous drug in transit is accompanied by an export authorization or diversion certificate and the Comptroller of Customs has reasonable ground for believing that such authorization or certificate is false, or that it has been obtained by fraud or wilful misrepresentation of a material particular, it shall be lawful for the Comptroller of Customs to seize and detain the drug to which such authorization or certificate relates. Upon being satisfied that such authorization or certificate is valid or has not been obtained by fraud or misrepresentation as aforesaid the Comptroller of Customs shall release the drug.

(3) Where any dangerous drug brought into Malta in transit is landed, or transhipped in Malta, it shall remain under the control of the Comptroller of Customs and shall be moved only under and in accordance with a removal licence granted in pursuance of article 16.

(4) Nothing in this article contained shall be deemed to apply to any dangerous drug in transit by air if the aircraft passes over Malta without landing, or to such quantities of dangerous drugs as may, *bona fide*, reasonably form part of the medical stores of any

ship or aircraft.

General prohibition on importation and exportation of dangerous drugs.
Added by:
VI.1994.8.

15A. (1) No person shall import or export, or cause to be imported or exported, or take any steps preparatory to importing or exporting, any dangerous drug into or from Malta except in pursuance of and in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance.

(2) For the purposes of this article the words "import" and "export" and their grammatical variations and cognate expressions shall have the meaning assigned to them in article 2(1).

Removal licences.
Amended by:
XVI. 1960.3;
XXIII. 1980.8;
VI. 1994.9.

16. (1) No person shall -

- (a) remove any dangerous drug from the conveyance by which it is brought into Malta in transit; or
- (b) in any way move any such drug in Malta at any time after removal from such conveyance,

except under and in accordance with a licence (in the Form D set out in the Second Schedule hereto and in this Ordinance referred to as a "removal licence") issued by the Comptroller of Customs. In all cases it shall be in the absolute discretion of the Comptroller of Customs to issue or refuse a removal licence as he shall deem fit.

(2) No removal licence for the transfer of any such drug to any conveyance for removal out of Malta shall be issued unless and until a valid and subsisting export authorization or diversion certificate relating to it is produced to the Comptroller of Customs.

Drugs not to be tampered with.
Amended by:
XVI. 1960.3.

17. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause any dangerous drug in transit to be subjected to any process which would alter its nature, or wilfully to open or break any package containing a dangerous drug in transit except under the instructions of the Comptroller of Customs and in such manner as he may direct.

Diversion of dangerous drugs.
Amended by:
XXIII. 1980.8;
VI.1994.10.

18. (1) No person shall, except under the authority of a diversion certificate in the Form E set out in the Second Schedule hereto, cause or procure any dangerous drug brought into Malta in transit to be diverted to any destination other than that to which it was originally consigned. In the case of any drug in transit accompanied by an export authorization or a diversion certificate issued by a competent authority of some other country, the country to which the drug was originally consigned shall be deemed to be the country stated in such export authorization or diversion certificate to be the country of destination.

(2) The Chief Government Medical Officer may in his absolute discretion issue a diversion certificate in respect of any dangerous drug in transit upon production to him of a valid and subsisting import certificate issued by a competent authority in the country to which it is proposed to divert the drug, or upon such evidence as may satisfy him that the drug is to be sent in a lawful manner and for a proper purpose.

(3) A diversion certificate shall be issued in duplicate: one copy thereof shall accompany the drug when it is exported from

Malta, and another copy shall be despatched by the Chief Government Medical Officer direct to the proper authority in the country to which the consignment has been diverted.

(4) Upon the issue of a diversion certificate the export authorization or diversion certificate (if any) accompanying the drug on its arrival in Malta shall be detained by the Chief Government Medical Officer and returned to the authority issuing such export authorization or diversion certificate together with a notification of the name of the country to which such drug has been diverted.

19. The powers and duties to be exercised and performed by the Chief Government Medical Officer under this Part of this Ordinance shall in the absence of the Chief Government Medical Officer be exercised and performed by the officer acting on his behalf.

Powers of Chief
Government
Medical Officer.

PART VI

GENERAL

20. Licences, permits or authorities for the purposes of this Ordinance other than Part V thereof may be issued or granted by such person on such terms and subject to such conditions (including in the case of a licence the payment of a fee) as the Minister responsible for public health may by rule prescribe.

Licences.
Amended by:
L.N. 4 of 1963;
XI. 1977.2.

21. (1) Any Police officer of a rank not inferior to that of sub-inspector shall, for the purposes of the execution of this Ordinance, have power to enter the premises of any person carrying on the business of a producer, manufacturer, seller or distributor of any drugs to which this Ordinance applies and to demand the production of and to inspect any books or documents relating to dealings in any such drugs and to inspect any stocks of any such drugs.

Power of
inspection and
seizure.
Amended by:
XXIII. 1980.4.

(2) If any person wilfully delays or obstructs any person in the exercise of his powers under this article or fails to produce or conceals or attempts to conceal any such books, stocks, drugs or documents as aforesaid, he shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance.

Offences and penalties.

Amended by:
XLVIII. 1975.2;
XXIII. 1980.5;
XIII. 1983.5;
VIII. 1986.2;
VIII. 1990.3;
VI. 1994.11;
XVI. 1996.2;
II. 1998.8;
VI. 2000.2;
XVI. 2006.29;
L.N. 409 of 2007;
XXXI. 2007.35;
IV. 2014.30;
XXIV. 2014.88;
VIII. 2015.41;
III.2020.2;
[XXXVI.2021.6;](#)
[VII.2025.7.](#)

22. (1) Any person -

- (a) who acts in contravention of, or fails to comply with, any provision of this Ordinance; or
- (b) who acts in contravention of, or fails to comply with, the conditions of any licence or permit issued or authority granted under or in pursuance of this Ordinance; or
- (c) who for the purpose of obtaining, whether for himself or for any other person, the issue, grant or renewal of any such licence, permit or authority as aforesaid, makes any declaration, or statement which is false in any particular, or knowingly utters, produces or makes use of any such declaration or statement or any document containing the same; or
- (d) who in Malta aids, abets, counsels or procures the commission in any place outside Malta of any offence punishable under the provisions of any corresponding law in force in that place, or who with another one or more persons conspires in Malta for the purpose of committing such an offence, or does any act preparatory to, or in furtherance of, any act which if committed in Malta would constitute an offence against this Ordinance; or
- (e) being a citizen of Malta or a permanent resident in Malta, who in any place outside Malta does any act which if committed in Malta would constitute an offence of selling or dealing in a drug against this Ordinance or an offence under paragraph (f); or
- (f) who with another one or more persons in Malta or outside Malta conspires for the purposes of selling or dealing in a drug in these Islands against the provisions of this Ordinance or who promotes, constitutes, organises or finances the conspiracy,

shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance.

For the purposes of paragraph (e), the expression "permanent resident" means a person in favour of whom a permit of residence has been issued in accordance with the provisions contained in article 7 of the [Immigration Act](#).

Cap. 217.

(1A) The conspiracy referred to in paragraphs (d) and (f) of the preceding sub-article shall subsist from the moment in which any mode of action whatsoever is planned or agreed upon between such persons.

(1B) For the purposes of this Ordinance the word "dealing" (with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions) with reference to dealing in a drug, includes cultivation in such circumstances that the court is satisfied that such cultivation was not for the exclusive use of the offender, importation in such circumstances that the Court is satisfied that such importation was not for the exclusive use of the offender, manufacture, exportation, distribution, production, administration, supply, the offer to do any

of these acts, and the giving of information intended to lead to the purchase of such a drug contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance:

Provided that in the case of cultivation or importation in such circumstances that the Court is satisfied that such cultivation or importation was for the exclusive use of the offender, the provisions of the [Probation Act](#) and of article 21 of the [Criminal Code](#) shall not apply.

Cap. 446.
Cap. 9.

- (1C) (a) A person shall also be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance who uses, transfers the possession of, sends or delivers to any person or place, acquires, receives, keeps, transports, transmits, alters, disposes of or otherwise deals with, in any manner or by any means, any money, property (whether movable or immovable) or any proceeds of any such money or property with intent to conceal or convert that money or property or those proceeds and knowing or suspecting that all or a part of that money or property, or of those proceeds, was obtained or received, directly or indirectly, as a result of -
- (i) the commission of any of the offences mentioned in sub-article (1) or sub-article (1D)(a) or in sub-article (1E); or
 - (ii) any act of commission or omission in any place outside these Islands which if committed in these Islands would constitute an offence under sub-article (1) or sub-article (1D)(a).
- (b) In proceedings for an offence under paragraph (a), where the prosecution produces evidence that no reasonable explanation was given by the person charged or accused showing that such money, property or proceeds was not money, property or proceeds described in the said paragraph, the burden of showing the lawful origin of such money, property or proceeds shall lie with the person charged or accused.
- (1D) (a) A person shall also be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance who sells or otherwise deals in a substance mentioned in the Third Schedule hereto knowing or suspecting that the substance is to be used in or for the production of a drug contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance; and the definition of "dealing" in sub-article (1B) shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to this sub-article.
- (b) The Minister responsible for public health may make rules for controlling the manufacture, sale, possession, distribution, importation and exportation of any of the substances mentioned in the Third Schedule hereto and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, for any of the purposes mentioned in article 9(1)(a) to (e), in so far as applicable, the reference to drugs in those paragraphs being construed

as a reference to the said substances.

(1E) A person shall also be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance who manufactures, transports or distributes any equipment or materials knowing that they are to be used in or for the cultivation, production or manufacture of any drug contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance and any such conduct as is prohibited under this sub-article shall be deemed for the purposes of this Ordinance as constituting an offence of selling or dealing in a drug against this Ordinance.

(1F) Any person who lands in Malta and is in possession of a drug against the provisions of this Ordinance shall be exempt from any criminal liability if the conditions mentioned in sub-article (1G) are satisfied.

(1G) The conditions to which reference is made in sub-article (1F) are the following:

- (a) the person in possession of the drug is not ordinarily resident in Malta and has come from a place outside Malta;
- (b) at the first opportunity after landing in Malta that person surrenders the said drug to a Police officer or to a customs officer and declares that the same drug was for his exclusive personal use; and
- (c) the said drug is in such a quantity and is in possession of that person under such circumstances as to reasonably lead to the inference that the same drug was destined for the exclusive personal use of that person.

(2) Every person charged with an offence against this Ordinance shall be tried in the Criminal Court or before the Court of Magistrates (Malta) or the Court of Magistrates (Gozo), as the Attorney General may direct, and if he is found guilty shall, in respect of each offence, be liable -

- (a) on conviction by the Criminal Court -
 - (i) where the offence is one under article 4 or under article 8(c) except in such circumstances that the Court is satisfied that such cultivation was for the exclusive use of the offender, or consists in selling or dealing in a drug contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance or in an offence under sub-article (1)(f), or of the offence of possession of a drug, contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance, under such circumstances that the court is satisfied that such possession was not for the exclusive use of the offender, or of the offences mentioned in sub-articles (1C) or (1D) or (1E), to imprisonment for life:

Provided that:

- (aa) where the court is of the opinion that, when it takes into account the age of

the offender, the previous conduct of the offender, the quantity of the drug and the nature and quantity of the equipment or materials, if any, involved in the offence and all other circumstances of the offence, the punishment of imprisonment for life would not be appropriate; or

(bb) where the verdict of the jury is not unanimous,

then the Court may sentence the person convicted to the punishment of imprisonment for a term of not less than four years but not exceeding thirty years and to a fine (*multa*) of not less than two thousand and three hundred and twenty-nine euro and thirty-seven cents (2,329.37) but not exceeding one hundred and sixteen thousand and four hundred and sixty-eight euro and sixty-seven cents (116,468.67); and

(ii) for any other offence to imprisonment for a term of not less than twelve months but not exceeding ten years and to a fine (*multa*) of not less than four hundred and sixty-five euro and eighty-seven cents (465.87) but not exceeding twenty-three thousand and two hundred and ninety-three euro and seventy-three cents (23,293.73); or

(b) on conviction by the Court of Magistrates (Malta) or the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) -

(i) where the offence is one under article 4 or under article 8(c) except in such circumstances that the Court is satisfied that such cultivation was for the exclusive use of the offender, or consists in selling or dealing in a drug contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance or in an offence under sub-article (1)(f), or of the offence of possession of a drug, contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance, under such circumstances that the court is satisfied that such possession was not for the exclusive use of the offender, or of the offences mentioned in sub-articles (1C) or (1D) or (1E), to imprisonment for a term of not less than six months but not exceeding ten years and to a fine (*multa*) of not less than four hundred and sixty-five euro and eighty-seven cents (465.87) but not exceeding eleven thousand and six hundred and forty-six euro and eighty-seven cents (11,646.87); and

(ii) for any other offence to imprisonment for a term of not less than three months but not exceeding twelve months or to a fine (*multa*) of not less than four hundred and sixty-five euro and

eighty-seven cents (465.87) but not exceeding two thousand and three hundred and twenty-nine euro and thirty-seven cents (2,329.37) or to both such imprisonment and fine,

and in every case of conviction for an offence against this Ordinance, all articles in respect of which the offence was committed shall be forfeited to the Government, and any such forfeited article shall, if the court so orders, be destroyed or otherwise disposed of as may be provided in the order:

Provided that, for the purposes of this sub-article, when the person charged has not attained the age of sixteen years and unless he is charged jointly with any other person who has attained the age of sixteen years, any reference to the Court of Magistrates (Malta) or to the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) shall be construed as a reference to the Juvenile Court:

Provided further that where a person is convicted as provided in paragraph (a)(i) or paragraph (b)(i) and the offence has taken place in, or within 100 metres of the perimeter of, a school, youth club or centre, or such other place where young people habitually meet, or the offence consists in the sale, supply, administration or offer to do any of these acts, to a minor, to a woman with child or to a person who is following a programme for cure or rehabilitation from drug dependence, the punishment shall be increased by one degree.

- (2A) (a) In giving a direction in accordance with sub-article (2) the Attorney General shall give due consideration to the guidelines included in the Fourth Schedule to this Ordinance;
- (b) Where the Attorney General has directed that the person accused be tried in the Criminal Court in accordance with sub-article (2), upon the termination of the inquiry, if the Court of Magistrates, as a Court of Criminal Inquiry, decides that there are sufficient grounds for committing the accused for trial on indictment, the accused may, by application to be filed in the Criminal Court within seven days from the conclusion of the inquiry or within seven days from the date on which the accused is served with the bill of indictment, demand the said court to order that he be tried in the Court of Magistrates and the Criminal Court shall, after ordering the service of the application upon the Attorney General and granting him at least seven days to reply and after having heard oral submissions from the accused and the Attorney General, if it considers this necessary, decide upon the court in which the accused is to be tried and the accused shall be tried in accordance with the decision of the Criminal Court:

Provided that an application in terms of this paragraph may only be filed once in the course of any proceedings:

Provided further that persons who, on the date of the coming into force of this sub-article, are awaiting trial in the Criminal Court further to a direction given in terms of sub-article (2) may, notwithstanding the other provisions of this paragraph, file an application in the said court in terms of this paragraph by not later than the 30th April 2015:

For the purposes of this sub-article the words "the conclusion of the inquiry" include any conclusion of an inquiry referred to in article 407 of the [Criminal Code](#).

Cap. 9.

(2B) Where, upon conviction by the Criminal Court as provided in sub-article (2)(a), after considering all the circumstances of the case including the amount and nature of the drug involved, the character of the person concerned, the number and nature of any previous convictions, including convictions in respect of which an order was made under the [Probation Act](#) and the provisions of the Fourth Schedule, the court is of the opinion that the punishment provided for in sub-article (2)(a) would be disproportionate it may, giving reasons, apply the punishment provided in sub-article (2)(b).

Cap. 446.

(2C) Where it is established that an offence under this Ordinance was committed by an officer of a body corporate as is referred to in article 121D of the [Criminal Code](#) or by a person having a power of representation or having such authority as is referred to in that article and the offence was committed for the benefit, in part or in whole, of that body corporate, the said person shall for the purposes of this Ordinance be deemed to be vested with the legal representation of the same body corporate which shall be liable to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding two million and five hundred thousand euro (€2,500,000):

Cap. 9.

Provided that where legal representation no longer vests in the said person, for purposes of this article, legal representation shall vest in the person occupying the office in his stead or in such person as is referred to in that article.

(3) Where an offence against this Ordinance in respect of which a person has been found guilty consists in or refers to the cultivation of a plant in a field, garden or similar tenement, the court shall, in addition to any other punishment order the forfeiture in favour of the Government of the entire immovable property in which the offence took place as described in the bill of indictment or in the charge:

Provided that where none of the persons found guilty as aforesaid is an absolute owner or co-owner or bare owner of the immovable property, and the offender holds it on any other title, whether real or otherwise, the court shall order the forfeiture of such title in favour of the Government.

(3A) Where an offence against this Ordinance in respect of which a person has been found guilty consists in any of the offences referred to in article 24A(1) the court shall, in addition to any other punishment, in its sentence or at any time thereafter, at the request of the prosecution -

(a) where any immovable property, in Malta or in any

place outside Malta, has been used for the keeping or storing, or for the selling or dealing in such drug, as described in the bill of indictment or in the charge, order the forfeiture in favour of the Government of any real title which the offender holds on such immovable property;

- (b) where the offender is not the absolute owner but holds any other real title on the immovable property, or has a title, other than a real title, in virtue of which he has the control of or a right of access to such property, the court shall order the offender to pay a fine (*multa*) of not less than eleven thousand and six hundred and forty-six euro and eighty-seven cents (11,646.87) but not exceeding sixty-nine thousand and eight hundred and eighty-one euro and twenty cents (69,881.20) as the court shall determine after taking into account the value of the immovable property and the value of the real title thereon, if any, forfeited as aforesaid;
- (c) saving the provisions of the [Criminal Code](#) and of the [Customs Ordinance](#), make an order whereby the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) shall be applied *mutatis mutandis* to or in respect of any vessel or vehicle, in Malta or in any place outside Malta, used for the keeping or storing, or for the selling or dealing in such drug; and
- (d) order the forfeiture in favour of the Government of all moneys or other movable property, and of the entire immovable property of the person so found guilty even if the immovable property has since the offender was charged passed into the hands of third parties, and even if the said monies, movable property or immovable property are situated in any place outside Malta.

Cap. 9.
Cap. 37.

(3B) Where the proceeds of the offence have been dissipated or for any other reason whatsoever it is not possible to identify and forfeit those proceeds or to order the forfeiture of such property the value of which corresponds to the value of those proceeds the court shall sentence the person convicted or the body corporate, or the person convicted and the body corporate *in solidum*, as the case may be, to the payment of a fine (*multa*) which is the equivalent of the amount of the proceeds of the offence. The said fine may be recovered as a civil debt and for this purpose the sentence of the court shall constitute an executive title for all intents and purposes of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#).

Cap. 12.

(3BA) Title IV of Part III of Book Second of the Criminal Code shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to proceedings for offences under this Ordinance.

(4) No person shall, on conviction for any offence of contravening or failing to comply with any rule under this Ordinance relating to the keeping of books or the issuing or dispensing of prescriptions containing drugs to which this

Ordinance applies, be sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine or to pay a fine exceeding one hundred and sixteen euro and forty-seven cents (116.47), if the court dealing with the case is satisfied that the offence was committed through inadvertence and was not preparatory to or committed in the course of or in connection with the commission or intended commission of any other offence against this Ordinance.

(5) If any person attempts to commit an offence against this Ordinance, or solicits or incites another person to commit such an offence, he shall, without prejudice to any other liability, be liable on conviction to the same punishment and forfeiture as if he had committed an offence under this Ordinance.

(6) Where the offence in respect of which a person is found guilty under this Ordinance consists in the production, selling or otherwise dealing in a drug mentioned in this Ordinance, and such person is either licensed under this Ordinance or under the [Medical and Kindred Professions Ordinance](#), or is in possession of a warrant issued under that Ordinance to practise a profession, or a calling or a trade, or the offence is committed in a place licensed under this Ordinance or the Ordinance aforesaid, the court shall, at the request of the prosecution and in addition to any other punishment, order the revocation of such licence or warrant, and upon such order being made any such licence or warrant shall cease to have effect for all purposes of law and in particular for the purpose of this Ordinance and of the Ordinance aforesaid. Cap. 31.

(7) Any decision as is mentioned in sub-articles (3) and (3A) ordering the forfeiture of immovable property or of any title to such property shall be deemed to be and shall be enforceable as a civil judgment transferring that title in favour of the Government, and the Attorney General shall, for the purposes of article 239 of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#), be considered as the interested party that may obtain the registration of such transfer. Cap. 12.

(8) Where it results to the court that the offender, other than an offender convicted of an offence as is referred to in paragraph (a)(i) or sub-article (2)(b)(i), is in need of care and assistance for his rehabilitation from dependence on any dangerous drug (as defined in article 12), the court may, instead of applying any of the punishments provided for in the foregoing sub-articles, place the offender on probation in accordance with the provisions of the [Probation Act](#), so however that such probation order may be made notwithstanding that the offender, who has attained the age of fourteen years, has not expressed his willingness to comply with the requirements thereof as provided in article 7 of that Act. Cap. 446.

(9) The provisions of articles 21 and 28A of the [Criminal Code](#) and the provisions of the [Probation Act](#) shall not be applicable in respect of any person convicted of an offence as is referred to in sub-article (2)(a)(i) or sub-article (2)(b)(i): Cap. 9.
Cap. 446.

Cap. 446.

Provided that where, in respect of any offence mentioned in this sub-article, after considering all the circumstances of the case including the amount and nature of the drug involved, the character of the person concerned, the number and nature of any previous convictions, including convictions in respect of which an order was made under the [Probation Act](#), the court is of the opinion that the offender intended to consume the drug on the spot with others, or procured a small quantity of drugs to be consumed on the spot for and upon the request of persons in his company at a single event at no profit, the court may decide not to apply the provisions of this sub-article:

Provided further that an offender may only benefit once from the provisions of the above proviso.

Cap. 31.

(9a) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-article (9) or of any other law, when the Court, whilst finding guilt of a person charged or accused under the provisions of this Ordinance or under the [Medical and Kindred Professions Ordinance](#), is of the opinion that in the circumstances if it were to impose a punishment of imprisonment on such person that punishment shall not exceed two (2) years imprisonment, the Court may instead of giving such punishment place the person found guilty under an order as provided for in the [Probation Act](#):

Cap. 446.

Provided that the provisions of this sub-article shall only be applied for reasons which the Court shall declare in its judgment and depending on the particular circumstances of the case, including the rehabilitation of the person found guilty and the change in the way of life and behaviour of the person found guilty and taking into consideration the nature of the substance involved, the amount of the substance and the purity of the substance:

Provided further that the Court shall only apply the provisions of this sub-article if the punishment of not more than two (2) years imprisonment is in any case within the parameters of the law and is appropriate in the circumstances irrespective of the provisions of this sub-article:

Provided further that the provisions of this sub-article shall only apply in regard of the first conviction of a person for an offence against this Ordinance.

(10) Where, in the case of a person convicted of an offence referred to in sub-article (9), the court is satisfied that such person is in need of treatment for his rehabilitation from dependence on any dangerous drug (as defined in article 12) and -

- (a) the Minister responsible for public health certifies in writing that such treatment may be given in prison, and
- (b) the person so convicted agrees to submit to that treatment,

the court may, in passing sentence order that he be given such treatment in prison (hereinafter referred to as an "order for

treatment") and for such period of time (hereinafter referred to as the "treatment period") as may be specified in the order (being not more than the period of time, as reduced in accordance with this sub-article, which the person convicted is to serve in prison) and the punishment of imprisonment which would, but for the provisions of this sub-article, have been awarded (hereinafter referred to as the "original punishment"), and which shall be expressly mentioned in the sentence, shall be reduced by the court by not more than one third.

(11) If during the treatment period, the court which made the order for treatment is satisfied, on an application by the Attorney General that the person to whom the order refers has, without valid reason (the proof whereof shall lie on such person), refused the treatment or has conducted himself in a manner as to make his treatment, or that of other prisoners, difficult or ineffective, it shall revoke such order and shall direct that the original punishment be served.

(12) The court which made the order for treatment shall, on an application made at any time during the treatment period by the person to whom the order refers requesting the revocation of that order, revoke such order and shall direct that the original punishment be served.

(13) The court which made the order for treatment may, on an application made at any time during the treatment period by the person to whom the order refers or by the Attorney General, discharge such order if it is satisfied that the treatment is no longer appropriate.

(14) For the purposes of sub-articles (10) to (13) -

- (a) any decision of the court which revokes an order for treatment and directs that the original punishment be served shall not be subject to appeal;
- (b) where an order for treatment is confirmed or varied by the Court of Criminal Appeal, the order shall be deemed to have been made by the said court;
- (c) an order for treatment shall, unless it has been revoked or discharged or has ceased to have effect earlier, cease to have effect upon the expiration or remission of the punishment of imprisonment for the offence in respect of which the order was made.

(15) Where an offence against this Ordinance in respect of which a person has been found guilty consists in any of the offences referred to in article 24A(1) or the offence of possession of a drug contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance, under such circumstances that the court is satisfied that such possession was not for the exclusive use of the offender, the provisions of articles 121D and 248E(4) of the [Criminal Code](#) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Freezing of
property of person
accused.
Added by:
VIII.1986.3.
Amended by:
VI. 2000.3;
L.N. 409 of 2007;
XXXI. 2007.36;
IV. 2014.31;
XXXI.2019.13.

22A. (1) Where a person is charged under article 22 of this Ordinance, with selling or dealing in a drug, or with promoting, constituting, organising or financing a conspiracy under sub-article (1)(f) of that article, or with the offence in sub-article (1C) of the same article, or with the offence of possession of a drug, contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance, under such circumstances that the court is satisfied that such possession was not for the exclusive use of the offender, the court shall at the request of the prosecution make an order -

- (a) attaching in the hands of third parties in general all moneys and other movable property due or pertaining or belonging to the accused, and
- (b) prohibiting the accused from transferring or otherwise disposing of any movable or immovable property:

Provided that the court shall in such an order determine what moneys may be paid to or received by the accused during the subsistence of such order, specifying the sources, manner and other modalities of payment, including salary, wages, pension and social security benefits payable to the accused, to allow him and his family a decent living in the amount, where the means permit, of thirteen thousand and nine hundred and seventy-six euro and twenty-four cents (13,976.24) every year:

Provided further that the court may also -

- (a) authorise the payment of debts which are due by the accused to *bona fide* creditors and which were contracted before such order was made; and
- (b) on good ground authorise the accused to transfer movable or immovable property.

(2) Such order shall -

- (a) become operative and binding on all third parties immediately it is made, and the Director of the Asset Recovery Bureau shall cause a notice thereof to be published without delay in the Gazette, and shall also cause a copy thereof to be registered in the Public Registry in respect of immovable property, and
- (b) remain in force until the final determination of the proceedings, and in the case of a conviction until the sentence has been executed.

(3) The court may for particular circumstances vary such order, and the provisions of the foregoing sub-articles shall apply to such order as so varied.

(4) Every such order shall contain the name and surname of the accused, his profession, trade or other status, father's name, mother's name and maiden surname, place of birth and place of residence and his identity card number.

(5) Where any money is or becomes due to the accused from any person while such order is in force such money shall, unless otherwise directed in that order, be deposited in a bank to the credit of the accused.

(6) When such order ceases to be in force as provided in sub-article (2)(b) the Director of the Asset Recovery Bureau shall cause a notice to that effect to be published in the Gazette, and shall enter in the Public Registry a note of cancellation of the registration of that order.

(7) Where the court does not proceed forthwith to make an order as required under sub-article (1), the court shall forthwith make a temporary freezing order having the same effect as an order made under this article, which temporary order shall remain in force until such time as the court makes the order required by the said article.

(8) Where for any reason whatsoever the court denies a request made by the prosecution for an order under sub-article (1), the Attorney General may, within three working days from the date of the court's decision, apply to the Criminal Court to make the required order and the provisions of this article shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the order made by the Criminal Court under this sub-article as if were an order made by the court under sub-article (1). The temporary freezing order made under sub-article (7) shall remain in force until the Criminal Court determines the application.

(9) The person charged may within three working days from the date of the making of the order under sub-article (7) apply to the Criminal Court for the revocation of the order, provided that order shall remain in force unless revoked by the Criminal Court.

22AB. (1) Where the court makes any order as is referred to in article 22A, it shall order the Director of the Asset Recovery Bureau to conduct inquiries to trace and ascertain the whereabouts of any moneys or other property, due or pertaining to or under the control of the person charged or accused or convicted, as the case may be.

The Director of the Asset Recovery Bureau to conduct enquiries.

Added by:
IV. 2014.32.

Amended by:
XXXI.2019.14.

(2) Whosoever is required by the Director of the Asset Recovery Bureau to provide information for the purpose of sub-article (1) shall comply with the demand within thirty days from the day of receipt of the demand.

(3) The demand made by the Director of the Asset Recovery Bureau, and any reply thereupon in terms of this article, may also be made by electronic mail.

22B. Any person who acts in contravention of a court order mentioned in article 22A shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding eleven thousand and six hundred and forty-six euro and eighty-seven cents (11,646.87), or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding twelve months, or to both such fine and imprisonment, and the court may order the person so found guilty to deposit in a bank to the credit of the accused the amount of moneys or the value of other movable property paid or delivered in contravention of that court order. Any transfer or other disposal of any immovable property made in contravention of the said court order shall be null and without effect at law.

Penalty for contravening court order.

Added by:
VIII. 1986.3.
Amended by:
VI. 1994.12;
L.N. 409 of 2007;
XXXI. 2007.37.

Suspension Order.
Added by:
VI. 2000.4.

Cap. 31.

22B. bis (1) Where a person is charged as provided in article 22A(1) and such person is a person as is referred to in article 22(6) or is a person in possession of a licence, permit or authority issued to him by a competent authority in or in connection with the exercise of any art, trade, calling or other occupation and the offence is committed in a place licensed under this Ordinance, under the [Medical and Kindred Professions Ordinance](#) or under any other law, the Court may, without prejudice to any other order that it may make under the provisions of this article, at the request of the prosecution make an order, hereinafter referred to as a "suspension order", suspending such licence, permit or authority.

(2) The suspension order shall remain in force for the whole duration of the proceedings until final judgement.

(3) Any person who does any act for the doing of which a licence, permit or authority is required under any law and such act is done when that licence, permit or authority had been suspended by virtue of a suspension order shall be deemed to have so acted without the required licence, permit or authority.

Special court proceedings.
Added by:
VIII. 1986.3.
Amended by:
VI.1994.13;
XXIV. 2014.89;
V.2021.67.

22C. (1) Where an order of forfeiture is made under of sub-article 22(3A)(d), the person found guilty, or the third party therein mentioned, may bring an action for a declaration that any or all of the movable or immovable property so forfeited is not profits or proceeds from the commission of any offence under this Ordinance (whether or not so adjudged by a court of criminal justice) nor property acquired or obtained, directly or indirectly, by or through any such profits or proceeds.

(2) Such action shall be brought not later than three months from the date on which the sentence ordering the forfeiture shall have become definite, by an application in the Civil Court (Asset Recovery Section).

(3) The applicant shall attach to the application all such documents in support of his claim as it may be in his power to produce and shall indicate in his application the names of all the witnesses he intends to produce, stating in respect of each the proof which he intends to make.

(4) The court shall, without delay, set down the application for hearing at an early date, which date shall in no case be later than thirty days from the date of the filing of the application.

(5) The application and the notice of the date fixed for hearing shall be served on the Asset Recovery Bureau without delay, and the said Bureau shall file his reply thereto within fifteen days after the date of the service of the application.

(6) The court shall hear the application to a conclusion within twenty working days from the date fixed for the original hearing of the application, and no adjournment shall be granted except either with the consent of both parties or for an exceptional reason to be recorded by the court, and such adjourned date shall not be later than that justified by any such reason.

(7) Saving the preceding provisions of this article, the provisions of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#)

Cap. 12.

relating to proceedings before the Civil Court, First Hall, shall apply in relation to any such application.

(8) Subject to sub-article (9) any decision revoking the forfeiture of immovable property shall be deemed to transfer the title of such property back from the Government to the party in favour of whom it is given, and such party may obtain the registration of such transfer in the Public Registry.

(9) Where a decision has been taken revoking the forfeiture of any movable or immovable property under this article, and provided that the person convicted or the body corporate, or the person convicted and the body corporate *in solidum*, as the case may be, have not been so sentenced, the Court shall sentence the said persons, to the payment of a fine (*multa*) which is the equivalent of the amount of the proceeds of the offence. The said fine may be recovered as a civil debt and for this purpose the sentence of the court shall constitute an executive title for all intents and purposes of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#).

Cap. 12.

22D. When the court allows the demand for a declaration as provided in article 22C(1) in respect of any property forfeited, such property shall cease to be forfeited and shall revert to the applicant in virtue of the judgment upon its becoming definite, and the applicant shall thereupon be entitled to the recovery of the income received by the Government from such property during the period of its forfeiture.

Reversion of
property ceasing to
be forfeited.
Added by:
VIII.1986.3.

22E. (1) At the commencement of proceedings under article 22, the drug in respect of which a person is charged shall be exhibited materially in court, as far as possible, and the following procedure shall be followed.

Destruction of
drugs after drawing
up a *procès-
verbal*.
Added by:
VIII.1986.4.
Amended by:
VI.1994.14.

(2) The court shall appoint a photographic expert to take pictures, as shall be indicated by the court, of the drug in its containers, wrappings, packages or receptacles, and shall also appoint an expert to analyse and establish the exact quantity, kind and form and give the most accurate description of the drug, and to take samples thereof for preservation as evidence.

(3) The experts shall, as early as possible, file in court and confirm on oath a written report of their findings, together with the photographs and samples aforementioned.

(4) The court, upon being satisfied with such report or reports shall proceed to have the drug, other than the samples, destroyed under its supervision and draw up a *procès-verbal*.

(5) The *procès-verbal* shall be deemed to have been regularly drawn up if it contains a short description of the drug, the experts report or reports are attached thereto and it is signed by the court.

(6) The *procès-verbal* drawn up as aforesaid shall be evidence of its contents in any criminal proceedings.

(7) The provisions of sub-article (2) shall not apply where the drug has already been photographed and analysed by experts appointed in the course of the inquiry relating to the *in genere*,

unless the court, in the particular circumstances of the case, shall deem it necessary to have the drug photographed and analysed again.

(8) The omission of any of the precautions or formalities referred to in this article shall be no bar to proving, in any manner allowed by law, the facts to which such precaution or formality relates.

Definition of the expression "corresponding law".
Substituted by:
VI.1994.15.

23. For the purposes of articles 22 and 30B the expression "corresponding law" means any law stated in a certificate purporting to be issued by or on behalf of the Government of any country outside Malta to be a law providing, whether exclusively or otherwise, for the control or regulation in that country of the manufacture, sale, use, possession, transfer, export or import of, or dealing in, dangerous drugs, narcotics or psychotropic substances; and any statement in any such certificate as to the effect of the law mentioned in the certificate, or any statement in any such certificate that any facts constitute an offence against that law, shall be conclusive.

Power of arrest.

24. Any Police officer may arrest without warrant any person who has committed, or attempted to commit, or is reasonably suspected by the officer of having committed or attempted to commit, an offence against this Ordinance, if he has reasonable ground for believing that that person will abscond unless arrested, or if the name and address of that person are unknown to and cannot be ascertained by him.

Additional powers of investigation.
Added by:
VI. 1994.16.
Amended by:
XVI. 1996.3;
VI. 2000.5;
L.N. 409 of 2007;
XXXI. 2007.38;
IV. 2014.33;
VIII.2020.83.

24A. (1) Where, upon information received, the Attorney General has reasonable cause to suspect that a person (hereinafter referred to as "the suspect"):

- (a) is guilty of selling or dealing in a drug contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance, or
- (b) is guilty of any of the offences mentioned in article 22(1)(e) or (f), or
- (c) is guilty of an offence mentioned in article 22(1)(d) with reference to any of the offences referred to in the foregoing paragraphs of this sub-article, or
- (d) is guilty of the offence mentioned in article 22(1C), or
- (e) is guilty of the offence of possession of a drug contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance, under such circumstances that the court is satisfied that such possession was not for the exclusive use of the offender,

he may apply to the Criminal Court for an order (hereinafter referred to as an "investigation order") that a person (including a body or association of persons, whether corporate or unincorporate) named in the order who appears to be in possession of particular material or material of a particular description which is likely to be of substantial value (whether by itself or together with other material) to the investigation of, or in connection with, the suspect, shall produce or grant access to such material to the person or

persons indicated in the order; and the person or persons so indicated shall, by virtue of the investigation order, have the power to enter any house, building or other enclosure for the purpose of searching for and seizing such material.

(2) Where an investigation order has been made or applied for, whosoever, knowing or suspecting that the investigation is taking place, makes any disclosure likely to prejudice the said investigation shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding eleven thousand and six hundred and forty-six euro and eighty-seven cents (11,646.87) or to imprisonment not exceeding twelve months, or to both such fine and imprisonment:

Provided that in proceedings for an offence under this sub-article, it shall be a defence for the accused to prove that he did not know or suspect that the disclosure was likely to prejudice the investigation.

(3) An investigation order:

- (a) shall not confer any right to production of, access to, or search for communications between an advocate or legal procurator and his client which would in legal proceedings be protected from disclosure by article 642(1) of the [Criminal Code](#) or by article 588(1) of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#);
- (b) shall, without prejudice to the provisions of the foregoing paragraph, have effect notwithstanding any obligation as to secrecy or other restriction upon the disclosure of information imposed by any law or otherwise; and
- (c) may be made in relation to material in the possession of any government department.

Cap. 9.

Cap.12.

(4) Where the material to which an application under sub-article (1) relates consists of information contained in a computer, the investigation order shall have effect as an order to produce the material or give access to such material in a form in which it can be taken away and in which it is visible and legible.

(5) Any person who, having been ordered to produce or grant access to material as provided in sub-article (1) shall, without lawful excuse (the proof whereof shall lie on him) wilfully fail or refuse to comply with such investigation order, or who shall wilfully hinder or obstruct any search for such material, shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding eleven thousand and six hundred and forty-six euro and eighty-seven cents (11,646.87) or to imprisonment not exceeding twelve months, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(6) Together with or separately from an application for an investigation order, the Attorney General may, in the circumstances mentioned in sub-article (1)(a) to (e), apply to the Criminal Court for an order (hereinafter referred to as an "attachment order") -

- (a) attaching in the hands of such persons (hereinafter

referred to as "the garnishees") as are mentioned in the application all moneys and other movable property due or pertaining or belonging to the suspect,

- (b) requiring the garnishee to declare in writing to the Attorney General, not later than twenty-four hours from the time of service of the order, the nature and source of all money and other moveable property so attached, and
- (c) prohibiting the suspect from transferring or otherwise disposing of any moveable or immoveable property.

(6A) Where an attachment order has been made or applied for, whosoever, knowing or suspecting that the attachment order has been so made or applied for, makes any disclosure likely to prejudice the effectiveness of the said order or any investigation connected with it shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding eleven thousand and six hundred and forty-six euro and eighty-seven cents (11,646.87) or to imprisonment not exceeding twelve months, or to both such fine and imprisonment:

Provided that in proceedings for an offence under this sub-article, it shall be a defence for the accused to prove that he did not know or suspect that the disclosure was likely to prejudice the investigation or the effectiveness of the attachment order.

(7) Before making an investigation order or an attachment order the court may require to hear the Attorney General in chambers and shall not make such order -

- (a) unless it concurs with the Attorney General that there is reasonable cause as provided in sub-article (1); and
- (b) in the case of an investigation order, unless the court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the material to which the application relates-
 - (i) is likely to be of substantial value (whether by itself or together with other material) to the investigation for the purpose of which the application is made, and
 - (ii) does not consist of communications referred to in sub-article (3)(a).

(8) The provisions of article 381(1)(a), (b) and (e) and of article 382(1) of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#) shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to the attachment order.

(9) An attachment order shall be served on the garnishee and on the suspect by an officer of the Executive Police.

(10) Any person who acts in contravention of an attachment order shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding eleven thousand and six hundred and forty-six euro and eighty-seven cents (11,646.87) or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding twelve months, or to both such fine and imprisonment:

Provided that where the offence consists in the payment or delivery to any person by the garnishee of any moneys or other moveable property attached as provided in sub-article (6)(a) or in the transfer or disposal by the suspect of any moveable or immovable property in contravention of sub-article (6)(c), the fine shall always be at least twice the value of the money or property in question:

Provided further that any act so made in contravention of that court order shall be null and without effect at law and the court may, where such person is the garnishee, order the said person to deposit in a bank to the credit of the suspect the amount of moneys or the value of other movable property paid or delivered in contravention of that court order.

(11) An attachment order shall, unless it is revoked earlier by the Attorney General by notice in writing served on the suspect and on the garnishee in the manner provided for in sub-article (9), cease to be operative on the expiration of six (6) months from the date on which it is made; and the court shall not make another attachment order with respect to that suspect unless it is satisfied that substantially new information with regards to any of the acts mentioned in sub-article (1)(a) to (e) is available:

Provided that the said period of six (6) months shall be held in abeyance for such time as the suspect is away from these Islands and the Attorney General informs of this fact the garnishee by notice in writing served in the manner provided for in sub-article (9).

(12) In the course of any investigation of an offence against this Ordinance, the Executive Police may request a magistrate to hear on oath any person who they believe may have information regarding such offence; and the magistrate shall forthwith hear that person on oath.

(13) For the purpose of hearing on oath a person as provided in sub-article (12) the magistrate shall have the same powers as are by law vested in the Court of Magistrates (Malta) or the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) as a Court of Criminal Inquiry as well as the powers mentioned in article 554 of the [Criminal Code](#); provided that such hearing shall always take place behind closed doors.

Cap. 9.

(14) It shall not be lawful for any court to issue a warrant of prohibitory injunction to stop the execution of an investigation, attachment or suspension order.

24B. (1) Where the Attorney General receives a request made by a judicial or prosecuting authority of any place outside Malta for investigations to take place in Malta in respect of a person (hereinafter referred to as "the suspect") suspected by that authority of an act or omission which if committed in these Islands, or in corresponding circumstances, would constitute any of the offences mentioned in article 24A(1)(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), the Attorney General may apply to the Criminal Court for an investigation order or an attachment order or for both and the provisions of article 24A shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to that application and to the suspect and to any investigation or attachment order made by the court as a

Powers of investigation in connection with offences cognizable by courts outside Malta.
Added by:
XVI.1996.4.
Amended by:
II. 1998.8;
XXXI. 2007.39.

result of that application.

(2) The words "investigation order" in the same article 24A(2) and (5) shall be read and construed as including an investigation order made under the provisions of this article.

(3) The words "attachment order" in the same article 24A(6A) shall be read and construed as including an attachment order made under the provisions of this article.

Freezing of
property of person
accused with
offences
cognizable by
Courts outside
Malta.
Added by:
XVI. 1996.4.
Amended by:
XXXI. 2007.40.

24C. (1) Where the Attorney General receives a request made by a judicial or prosecuting authority of any place outside Malta for the temporary seizure of all or any of the moneys or property, movable or immovable, of a person (hereinafter in this article referred to as "the accused") charged or accused in proceedings before the courts of that place of an offence consisting in an act or an omission which if committed in these Islands, or in corresponding circumstances, would constitute any of the offences mentioned in article 24A(1)(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), the Attorney General may apply to the Criminal Court for an order (hereinafter referred to as a "freezing order") having the same effect as an order as is referred to in article 22A(1) and the provisions of the said article 22A shall, subject to the following provisions of this article, apply *mutatis mutandis* to that order.

(2) The first proviso of article 22A(1) shall not apply to a freezing order made under this article unless:

- (a) the accused is present in Malta on the date the order is made; or
- (b) the Attorney General or any other interested person present in Malta applies to the court, before or after the order is made, for the application of that proviso in which case the court shall only apply the proviso to the extent that it is satisfied that the application of the proviso is necessary to allow the accused and his family a decent living.

(3) In the case of a freezing order under this article it shall be sufficient that the order contains at least four of the particulars referred to in article 22A(4) and may also contain any other particulars, including the passport number, of the accused as may be useful to identify the accused.

(4) Subject to the provisions of sub-article (5), a freezing order under this article shall remain in force for a period of six months from the date on which it is made but shall be renewed by the court for further periods of six months upon an application for that purpose by the Attorney General and upon the court being satisfied that:

- (a) the conditions which led to the making of the order still exist; or
- (b) that the accused has been convicted of an offence as is referred to in sub-article (1) in the proceedings referred to in the same sub-article and the sentence in regard to the accused in those proceedings or any

confiscation order consequential or accessory thereto, whether made in civil or criminal proceedings, has not been executed:

Provided that where the accused has been convicted as aforesaid but no confiscation order has been made in the sentence in respect of that conviction the freezing order shall nevertheless be renewed as requested by the Attorney General where the court is satisfied that civil or criminal proceedings for the making of such an order are pending or are imminent.

(5) Any freezing order under this article may be revoked by the Court before the expiration of the period laid down in sub-article (4):

- (a) at the request of the Attorney General; or
- (b) at the request of any interested person and after hearing the Attorney General upon the court being satisfied:
 - (i) that the conditions which led to the making of the order no longer exist; or
 - (ii) that there has been a final decision in the proceedings referred to in sub-article (1) by virtue of which the accused has not been found guilty of any offence as is referred to in the same sub-article.

(6) Article 22B shall also apply to any person who acts in contravention of a freezing order under this article.

24D. (1) A confiscation order made by a court outside Malta shall be enforceable in Malta in accordance with the following provisions of this article.

(2) Where the Attorney General receives a request made by a judicial or prosecuting authority of any place outside Malta for the enforcement in Malta of a confiscation order made by a competent court in that place (hereinafter referred to as a "foreign confiscation order") the Attorney General may bring an action in the Civil Court (Asset Recovery Section) by an application containing a demand that the enforcement in Malta of the foreign confiscation order be ordered.

(3) The Attorney General shall attach to the application a copy of the relevant foreign confiscation order together with all such documents in support of the demand as it may be in his power to produce and shall indicate in his application the names of all the witnesses he intends to produce, stating in respect of each the proof which he intends to make.

(4) The application shall be served on the person whose property the foreign confiscation order purports to confiscate who shall file his reply within fifteen days after the date of the service of the application. The reply shall contain a list of the witnesses which the respondent intends to produce stating in respect of each the proof which he intends to make and the respondent shall attach to the reply all such documents he intends to produce in evidence as

Enforcement of
confiscation orders
made by courts
outside Malta
following
conviction for
offences
cognizable by
those courts.
Added by:
XVI. 1996.4.
Amended by:
XXXI. 2007.41;
V.2021.67.

it may be in his power to produce.

(5) The court shall without delay, set down the application for hearing at an early date, which date shall in no case be later than thirty days from the date of the filing of the application.

(6) The court shall not order the enforcement in Malta of the foreign confiscation order if:

- (a) the respondent had not been notified of the proceedings which led to the making of the relevant foreign confiscation order so as not to have had an adequate opportunity to contest the making of the same order;
- (b) the foreign confiscation order was obtained by fraud on the part of any person to the prejudice of the respondent;
- (c) the foreign confiscation order contains any disposition contrary to the public policy, or the internal public law in force in Malta;
- (d) the foreign confiscation order contains contradictory dispositions.

(7) A decision by the court ordering the enforcement of a foreign confiscation order shall have the effect of forfeiting in favour of the Government of Malta all things and property whatsoever situated in Malta the confiscation of which had been ordered in the foreign confiscation order subject to any directions which the Government of Malta may give providing for the further disposal of the same things and property so forfeited.

(8) The decision ordering the enforcement of a foreign confiscation order which provides for the forfeiture of immovable property or of any title to such property shall have the effect of transferring that immovable property or that title to the Government of Malta and for the purposes of article 239 of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#) the Attorney General shall be considered as the interested party that may obtain the registration of such transfer.

(9) The decision ordering the enforcement of a foreign confiscation order which provides for the forfeiture of unspecified property the value of which corresponds to proceeds shall, upon being registered in the Public Registry Office, create as from the day of registration a hypothec in regard to the debt amounting to the said value.

(9A) When the foreign confiscation order consists in the requirement to pay a sum of money, the court shall convert the amount thereof into Maltese currency at the rate of exchange ruling on the date of the decision ordering the enforcement.

(10) Where the Attorney General receives a request as is referred to in sub-article (2) the Attorney General may, for the purpose of securing any or all of the property which the foreign confiscation order purports to confiscate or forfeit, apply to the Civil Court (Asset Recovery Section) for the issue of all or any of the precautionary acts referred to in article 830 of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#): Cap. 12.

Provided that the aforesaid article 830(2) and article 836(1)(c), (d) and (e) and of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#) shall not apply to any precautionary act issued by virtue of this article.

(11) Saving the preceding provisions of this article, the provisions of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#) relating to proceedings before the Civil Court, First Hall, shall apply in relation to any application under this article.

(12) For the purposes of this article:

"confiscation order" includes any judgement, decision, declaration, or other order made by a court whether of criminal or civil jurisdiction providing or purporting to provide for the confiscation or forfeiture of:

- (i) proceeds;
- (ii) property into which proceeds have been transformed or converted;
- (iii) property with which proceeds have been intermingled;
- (iv) income or other benefits derived from (i), (ii), and (iii);
- (v) property the value of which corresponds to proceeds; or
- (vi) dangerous drugs, materials and equipment or other instrumentalities used in or intended for use in any manner in a relevant offence;

"proceeds" means any economic advantage and any property derived from or obtained, directly or indirectly, through the commission of a relevant offence and includes any income or other benefits derived from such property;

"property" means assets of every kind, whether corporeal or incorporeal, movable or immovable, tangible or intangible, and legal documents or instruments evidencing title to, or interest in, such assets;

"relevant offence" means any offence consisting in any act or omission which if committed in these Islands, or in corresponding circumstances, would constitute any of the offences mentioned in article 24A(1)(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e).

25. For the purposes of this Ordinance, any article shall be deemed to be imported under licence or exported under licence if the importer or exporter, as the case may be, is the holder of a licence or authorization issued under this Ordinance authorizing the

Meaning of importation and exportation under licence.

importation or exportation, as the case may be, of the article and complies with the conditions, if any, of the licence or authorization, but not otherwise.

Burden of proof.
Amended by:
VI.1994.17.

26. (1) In any proceedings against any person for an offence against this Ordinance, it shall not be necessary to negative by evidence any licence, authority or other matter of exception or defence, and the burden of proving any such matter shall lie on the person seeking to avail himself thereof.

(2) When the offence charged is that of possession of, or of selling or dealing in, a drug contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance it shall not be a defence to such charge for the accused to prove that he believed that he was in possession of, or was selling or dealing in, some thing other than the drug mentioned in the charge if the possession of, or the selling or dealing in, that other thing would have been, in the circumstances, in breach of any other provision of this Ordinance or of any other law.

Detention during
inquiry.
Added by:
VIII. 1986.5.
Amended by:
VIII. 1990.3;
VI.1994.18;
VIII. 2015.41.
Cap. 9.

27. Notwithstanding the provisions of the [Criminal Code](#), and saving the extensions by the President of Malta of the term of the inquiry as provided in article 401(1) of that Code, where the Attorney General has directed that a person charged with selling or dealing in a drug against this Ordinance or charged with promoting, constituting, organising or financing a conspiracy under article 22(1)(f) or with the offence mentioned in article 22(1C) is to be tried in the Criminal Court, such person shall be arraigned under arrest and the Court of Magistrates as a court of criminal inquiry shall conclude the inquiry within the term of thirty days from the arraignment, and until the expiration of that term or, if the inquiry is concluded at an earlier date, until such day, the person accused shall not be granted temporary release from custody, but at the end of those thirty days or such earlier date as aforesaid, the court may grant temporary release from custody in accordance with the provisions of that Code:

Provided that if the term of the inquiry is held in abeyance for the reason specified in article 402(1)(c) of the [Criminal Code](#), the court may nonetheless grant temporary release from custody after the lapse of thirty days from the arraignment.

Pecuniary penalty
recoverable as a
civil debt.
Added by:
VIII. 1986.5.

28. (1) On a conviction for an offence against this Ordinance, the pecuniary penalty shall, at the request of the prosecution, be deemed to be a civil debt and shall be declared by the competent court in passing judgment as being so owed and payable to Government and shall be executable in the same court pronouncing judgment in the same manner as if it had been given in a civil action duly instituted between the Government and the person convicted.

(2) Where however the prosecution informs the competent court that the pecuniary penalty has not been recovered by the Government as provided for in the preceding sub-article, such penalty or any part thereof not recovered, shall be treated as a fine (*multa* or *ammenda*) as inflicted by the court and shall be converted into imprisonment, without the benefit of time for payment, in accordance with the provisions of the [Criminal Code](#).

Cap. 9.

29. (1) Where in respect of a person found guilty of an offence against this Ordinance, the prosecution declares in the records of the proceedings that such person has helped the Police to apprehend the person or persons who supplied him with the drug, or the person found guilty as aforesaid proves to the satisfaction of the court that he has so helped the Police, the punishment shall be diminished, as regards imprisonment by one or two degrees, and as regards any pecuniary penalty by one-third or one-half.

Diminution of punishment.
Added by:
VIII. 1986.5.
Amended by:
[XXXVI.2021](#).7.

(2) The punishment shall also be diminished as provided in sub-article (1) where the person found guilty of an offence against this Ordinance has helped the police to apprehend the person or persons involved in a conspiracy to deal in drugs or has assisted the police to apprehend the person or persons for whom the drug was intended for dealing.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-articles (1) and (2), where it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that the person found guilty of an offence against this Ordinance had assisted the police but for any reason clearly beyond his control the person or persons who supplied him with the drug or the person or persons involved in a conspiracy to deal in drugs or the person for whom the drug was intended for dealing were not apprehended, the court may, being satisfied of such circumstance, diminish the punishment as regards imprisonment by one degree and as regards any pecuniary penalty by one-third.

(4) A reduction in punishment under this article shall only be given in terms of one of the foregoing sub-articles of this article for the same case.

***30. (1)** Notwithstanding the provisions of article 639(3) of the [Criminal Code](#) where a person has purchased or otherwise obtained or acquired a drug contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance, the evidence of such person in proceedings against the person from whom he shall have purchased, obtained or acquired the drug, shall not require to be corroborated by other circumstances.

Evidence by accomplice.
Added by:
VIII. 1986.5.
Cap. 9.
Amended by:
[XXXVI.2021](#).8.

(2) Where the only witness against the accused in any offence against this Ordinance or against the [Medical and Kindred Professions Ordinance](#) in any trial by jury is an accomplice, the court shall give direction to the jury to approach the evidence of the witness with caution before relying on it in order to convict the accused.

*See article 7 of Act VIII of 1986.

Statement may be admitted as evidence.
 Added by: VI.1994.19.
 Cap. 9.

30A. Notwithstanding the provisions of article 661 of the [Criminal Code](#), where a person is involved in any offence against this Ordinance, any statement made by such person and confirmed on oath before a magistrate and any evidence given by such person before any court may be received in evidence against any other person charged with an offence against the said Ordinance, provided it appears that such statement or evidence was made or given voluntarily, and not extorted or obtained by means of threats or intimidation, or of any promise or suggestion of favour.

Controlled delivery and purchase.
 Added by: VI.1994.19.
 Amended by: II. 1998.8;
 VI. 2000.6.
 Amended by: XXXVI.2021.9.

30B. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, it shall be lawful for the Executive Police and, where appropriate, the Customs Authorities to allow, with the consent of the Attorney General or of a magistrate, a controlled delivery to take place.

(2) For the purposes of this article a controlled delivery means the technique of allowing an illicit or suspect consignment of a dangerous drug (as defined in article 12) or of money, property or proceeds as referred to in article 22(1C)(a) to pass out of, through or into Malta, or from one place or person in Malta to another place or person in Malta, or into the territory of another country, intact, or removed or replaced in whole or in part, with the knowledge and under the supervision of the Executive Police and, where appropriate, of the Customs Authorities and of the competent authorities of such other country, with a view to identifying persons involved in commission of offences under this Ordinance or under the corresponding law in force in the territory of such other country.

(3) It shall also be lawful for the Executive Police or for a person under the supervision or direction of the Executive Police, with a view to identifying persons involved in the commission of offences under this Ordinance, and with the consent of the Attorney General or of a magistrate, to acquire or procure a dangerous drug (as defined in article 12) or a suspect consignment of money, property or proceeds as referred to in article 22(1C)(a) from any person or place.

Persons transferred to Malta from abroad for the purposes of giving evidence or assisting in an investigation, etc.
 Added by: XVI.1996.5.

30C. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-article (2), where a witness, expert or other person in a foreign country consents, in respect of an offence contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance, to give evidence in a proceeding or to assist in an investigation, prosecution or judicial proceeding in Malta following a request for assistance to that effect made by the competent authority in Malta to the competent authority in that foreign country that witness, expert or other person shall not, while in Malta, be prosecuted, detained, punished or subjected to any other restriction of his personal liberty in respect of acts, omissions or convictions prior to his departure from the foreign country.

(2) The provisions of sub-article (1) shall cease to apply when the witness, expert or other person:

- (a) fails to leave Malta, after having had the opportunity to do so, within a period of fifteen consecutive days from the date on which he has been served by the Attorney General with a notice informing him that his

- presence in Malta is no longer required; or
- (b) having left Malta, has returned of his own free will.

30D. (1) Where the Attorney General receives, or is informed about, a request made by or on behalf of a judicial, prosecuting, law enforcement, administrative or other competent authority of any State or place other than or outside Malta (hereinafter in this article referred to as the "requesting authority") seeking authorisation for the competent authorities of that State or place to take appropriate measures in regard to a relevant vessel reasonably suspected to be engaged in the commission of a relevant offence the Attorney General may, with the concurrence of the Prime Minister, authorise the taking of the said measures by the aforesaid competent authorities subject to such conditions as may have been agreed by Malta with that State or as may be agreed between the requesting authority and the Attorney General with the concurrence of the Prime Minister.

Co-operation in the suppression of relevant offences at sea.

Added by:

XVI. 1996.5.

Amended by:

XVI. 2006.29;

XXIV. 2007.7.

(2) Where authorisation has been given by the Attorney General as aforesaid the competent authorities referred to in the sub-article (1), subject to the conditions as may have been agreed upon as provided in the same sub-article, shall be authorised to take the appropriate measures and to exercise on board the vessel in regard to which appropriate measures have been authorised under this article all such powers of arrest, entry, search and seizure as are vested in the executive police of Malta.

(3) For the purposes of this article:

"relevant offence" shall have the same meaning assigned to it by article 24D(12);

"relevant vessel" means a ship or any other floating craft of any description, including hovercrafts and submersible crafts, flying the flag of Malta or displaying the marks of registry of Malta and exercising freedom of navigation in accordance with international law; and

"appropriate measures" with regard to a vessel include the boarding of and carrying a search on such vessel as well as such other appropriate action with respect to the vessel, persons and cargo on board such vessel if evidence of involvement of the vessel in a relevant offence is found.

30E. (1) In virtue of this article and for the purposes of the [Ratification of Treaties Act](#), the Government is authorised to accede to the Agreement on Illicit Traffic by Sea implementing Article 17 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, done at Strasbourg on the 31st day of January, 1995, hereinafter in this article referred to as "the European Convention".

European Agreement on Illicit Traffic by Sea.

Added by:

VI. 2000.7.

Cap. 304.

(2) The Minister responsible for the Police may make regulations generally for implementing the provisions of the European Convention and may, in particular, by such regulations:

- (a) extend the jurisdiction of the Maltese courts;

- (b) authorise the boarding, search and arrest of vessels;
- (c) provide that certain officials, whether Maltese or foreign, shall, for the purpose of any law in Malta, be considered as officers protected by those laws;
- (d) provide for the designation of authorities for the purposes of the European Convention;
- (e) provide for the application of these regulations and of the provisions of this Ordinance to the drugs to which the provisions of the [Medical and Kindred Professions Ordinance](#) apply, in accordance with the said European Convention,

Cap. 31.

all as provided in the said European Convention, and may moreover provide that any part of the European Convention shall, to the extent provided in such regulations, have the force of law in Malta.

Direction for trial by the Court of Magistrates as a court of criminal judicature.
Added by:
 VIII.1986.5
Amended by:
 VIII. 1990.3;
 III. 2002.162.

***31.** Notwithstanding that the Attorney General has directed in accordance with the provisions of article 22(2), that a person be tried in the Criminal Court, he may, at any time before the filing of the bill of indictment or at any time after filing the bill of indictment before the jury is empanelled, and with the consent of the accused, direct that that person be tried before the Court of Magistrates, and upon such direction the Court of Magistrates as a court of criminal judicature shall become competent to try that person as if no previous direction had been given. Where the Attorney General has given such new direction after the filing of the bill of indictment, the registrar of the Criminal Court shall cause the record to be transmitted to the Court of Magistrates, and shall cause a copy of the Attorney General's direction to be served on the Commissioner of Police.

Offences cognizable by the Court of Magistrates as a court of criminal judicature.
Added by:
 VIII. 1986.5.
Amended by:
 VIII. 1990.3.
 Cap. 9.

32. Notwithstanding the provisions of article 370 of the [Criminal Code](#) and without prejudice to the provisions of article 31, the Court of Magistrates shall be competent to try all offences against this Ordinance as directed by the Attorney General in accordance with the provisions of article 22(2).

Right of appeal.
Added by:
 VIII.1986.6.
Amended by:
 VIII.1990.3.
 Cap. 9.

33. Notwithstanding the provisions of the [Criminal Code](#), the Attorney General shall always have a right of appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal from any judgment given by the Court of Magistrates in respect of criminal proceedings arising out of the provisions of this Ordinance.

Amendment of Schedules.
Added by:
 II. 1998.8.
Amended by:
 XXIV. 2014.91;
 XII.2025.4.

34. (1) The Minister responsible for public health may by regulations amend the First, the Second and the Third Schedules to this Ordinance.

(2) The Minister responsible for Justice may, after consultation with the Minister responsible for the Police and with the Attorney General, amend the Fourth Schedule to this Ordinance.

*See article 7 of Act VIII of 1986.

(3) The Minister responsible for the Authority on the Responsible Use of Cannabis Act may, for the purposes of public health and harm reduction, by regulations amend the Fifth Schedule to this Ordinance, where it appears that a particular phytocannabinoid or cannabinoid shall be classified as non-psychoactive or psychoactive as well as when it appears that cannabinoids shall be classified as synthetic cannabinoids.

35. All necessary actions required for the implementation of the Council Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA shall be implemented as soon as possible but not later than six (6) months after the entry into force by the act amending the Annex of the said Decision, and shall include a specific reference to the said Framework Decision.

Implementation
of the Council
Framework
Decision 2004/
757/JHA.
Added by:
V.2019.6.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Preparations containing any of the drugs included in Parts I and II of this Schedule subject to the exemptions listed in Part III of this Schedule.

PART I

ACETORPHINE

ACETYLFENTANYL, (N-(1-phenethylpiperidin-4-yl)-N-phenylacetamide)

ACETYLMETHADOL

ACETYLALPHAMETHYL FENTANYL

ACRYLOYLFENTANYL, N-(1-phenethylpiperidin-4-yl)-N-phenylacrylamide

AH-7921, (3,4-dichloro-N-[(1-(dimethylamino) cyclohexyl)methyl] benzamide)

ALFENTANIL

ALLYLPRODINE

ALPHACETYLMETHADOL

ALPHAMEPRODINE

ALPHAMETHADOL

ALPHAMETHYL FENTANYL

ALPHAMETHYL THIOFENTANYL

ALPHAPRODINE

ANILERIDINE

BENZETHIDINE

BENZYLMORPHINE

BETACETYLMETHADOL

BETA-HYDROXYFENTANYL

BETA-HYDROXY-3-METHYLFENTANYL

Added by:
XXIII.1980.9.
Amended by:
L.N. 32 of 1984;
L.N. 58 of 1988;
L.N. 49 of 1990;
L.N. 93 of 1990;
L.N. 148 of 2000;
L.N. 373 of 2007;
L.N. 331 of 2009;
L.N. 49 of 2016;
L.N. 359 of 2017;
L.N. 360 of 2017;
L.N. 43 of 2018;
L.N. 230 of 2018;
L.N. 389 of 2018;
L.N. 189 of 2019;
L.N. 119 of 2021;
L.N. 120 of 2021;
LXVI.2021.25;
L.N. 165 of 2022;
L.N. 156 of 2023;
L.N. 179 of 2024;
L.N. 97 of 2025.

BETAMEPRODINE

BETAMETHADOL

BETAPRODINE

BEZITRAMIDE

BRORPHINE, 1-{1-[1-(4-bromophenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-yl}-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-one

BUTYRFENTANYL, *N*-phenyl-*N*-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]butanamide

BUTONITAZENE, 2-[(4-butoxyphenyl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethyl-5-nitro-1*H*-benzimidazole-1-ethanamine)

CANNABIS - any extract or tincture thereof

CARFENTANIL, Methyl 1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-[phenyl(propanoyl)amino]piperidine-4-carboxylate

CLONITAZENE

COCAINE

CODOXIME

Concentrate of poppy straw (the material arising when poppy straw has entered into a process for the concentration of its alkaloid when such material is made available in trade)

CROTONYLFENTANYL, (2*E*)-*N*-phenyl-*N*-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]but-2-enamide

CYCLOPROPYLFENTANYL, *N*-phenyl-*N*-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]cyclopropanecarboxamide'

DESOMORPHINE

DEXTROMORAMIDE

DIAMPROMIDE

DIETHYLTHIAMBUTENE

DIFENOXIN

DIHYDROMORPHINE

DIMENOXADOL

DIMEPHEPTANOL

DIMETHYLTHIAMBUTENE

DIOXAPHETYL BUTYRATE

DIPHENOXYLATE

DIIPANONE

DROTEBANOL

ECGONINE, its esters and derivatives which are convertible to ecgonine and cocaine

ETAZENE, 2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-1-ethanamine

ETHYLMETHYLTHIAMBUTENE

ETONITAZENE

ETONITAZEPIPNE, 2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-5-nitro-1-(2-piperidin-1-ylethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole

ETONITAZEOPYNE, 2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-5-nitro-1-(2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole

ETORPHINE

ETOXERIDINE

FENTANYL

4-FLUOROISOBUTYRFENTANYL (4-FIBF, pFIBF), *N*-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-*N*-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide

FURANYLFENTANYL, *N*-phenyl-*N*-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]furan-2-carboxamide

FURETHIDINE

HEROIN

HYDROCODONE

HYDROMORPHINOL

HYDROMORPHONE

HYDROXPETHIDINE

ISOMETHADONE

ISOTONITAZENE, *N,N*-diethyl-2-[[4-(1-methylethoxy)phenyl]methyl]-5-nitro-1*H*-benzimidazole-1-ethanamine

KETOBEMIDONE

LEVOMETHORPHAN*

LEVOMORAMIDE

LEVOPHENACYLMORPHAN

LEVORPHANOL*

MEDICINAL OPIUM

METAZOCINE

METHADONE

METHADONE - INTERMEDIATE

METHOXYACETYLFENTANYL, 2-methoxy-*N*-phenyl-*N*-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-methyl-AP-237, 1-{2-methyl-4-[(2*E*)-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-yl]piperazin-1-yl}butan-1-one

METHYLDESORPHINE

METHYLDIHYDROMORPHINE

METHYLFENTANYL (CIS and TRANS ISOMERS)

METHYLPHENYLPIPERIDOL PROPIONATE (MPPP)

METONITAZENE, N,N-diethyl-2-[(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-5-nitro-1H-benzimidazole-1-ethanamine

METONITAZEPYNE, 2-[(4-methoxyphenyl) methyl]-5-nitro-1-(2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

METOPON

MORAMIDE - INTERMEDIATE

MORPHERIDINE

MORPHINE

MORPHINE METHOBROMIDE and other pentavalent nitrogen morphine derivatives, including in particular the morphine-Noxide derivatives, one of which is Codeine-N-Oxide

MORPHINE-N-OXIDE

MT-45, (1-cyclohexyl-4-(1,2-diphenylethyl)piperazine)

MYROPHINE

N-desethylisotonitazene, *N*-ethyl-2-[2-[(4-isopropoxyphenyl)methyl]-5-nitro-benzimidazol-1-yl]ethanamine

NICOMORPHINE

NORACYMETHADOL

NORLEVORPHANOL

NORMETHADONE

NORMORPHINE

NORPIANONE

OCFENTANIL, *N*-(2-Fluorophenyl)-2-methoxy-*N*-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

ORIPAVINE (3-*O*-demethylthebaine or 6,7,8,14-tetradehydro-4,5-*alpha*-epoxy-6-methoxy-17-methylmorphinan-3-ol)

OXYCODONE

OXYMORPHONE

ORTHOFLUOROFENTANYL, *N*-(2-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-propanamide

PARAFLUOROBUTYRYLFENTANYL or 4F-BF, *N*-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]butanamide

PARA-FLUOROFENTANYL

PETHIDINE

PETHIDINE - INTERMEDIATE - A

PETHIDINE - INTERMEDIATE - B

PETHIDINE - INTERMEDIATE - C

PHENADOXONE

PHENAMPROMIDE

PHENAZOCINE

PHENETHYLPHENYLPIPERIDOL ACETATE
(ESTER) (PEPAP)

PHENOMORPHAN

PHENOPERIDINE

PIMINODINE

PIRITRAMIDE

PROHEPTAZINE

PROPERIDINE

PROTONITAZENE, N,N-diethyl-5-nitro-2-[(4-propoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-H-benzimidazole-1-ethanamine

PROTONITAZEPYNE, 5-nitro-2-[(4-propoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-(2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)benzimidazole

RACEMETHORPHAN

RACEMORAMIDE

RACEMORPHAN

REMIFENTANIL

SUFENTANIL

TAPENTADOL, (3-[(1R,2R)-3-(dimethylamino)-1-ethyl-2-methylpropyl]phenol

TETRAHYDROFURANYLFENTANYL (THF-F), N-Phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]oxolane-2-carboxamide

THEBACON

THEBAINE

TILIDINE

TRIMEPERIDINE

U-47700, 3,4-dichloro-N-(2-dimethylamino-cyclohexyl)-N-methyl-benzamide

VALERYLFENTANYL, N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]pentanamide

The isomers, unless specifically excepted, of the drugs in this Part of the Schedule whenever the existence of such esters or ethers is possible;

The esters and ethers, unless appearing in another Part of this Schedule, of the drugs in this Part of the Schedule whenever the existence of such esters or ethers is possible;

The salts of the drugs listed in this Part of the Schedule, including the salts of esters, ethers and isomers as provided above whenever the existence of such salts is possible.

* DEXTROMETHORPHAN and DEXTORPHAN are specifically excluded from this Part of the Schedule.

PART II

ACETYLDIHYDROCODEINE

CODEINE

DEXTROPROPOXYPHENE

DIHYDROCODEINE

ETHYLMORPHINE

NICOCODINE

NICODICODINE

NORCODEINE

PHOLCODINE

PROPIRAM

The isomers, unless specifically excepted, of the drugs in this Part of the Schedule whenever the existence of such isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation;

The salts of the drugs listed in this Part of the Schedule, including the salts of the isomers as provided above whenever the existence of such salts is possible.

PART III

*Exemptions***1.** Preparations of:

ACETYLDIHYDROCODEINE

CODEINE

DIHYDROCODEINE

ETHYLMORPHINE

NICOCODINE

NICODICODINE

NORCODEINE, and

PHOLCODINE

when compounded with one or more other ingredients and containing not more than 100 milligrammes of the drug per dosage unit and with a concentration of not more than 2.5 per cent in undivided preparations.

2. Preparations of propiram containing not more than 100 mg of propiram per dosage unit and compounded with at least the same amount of methylcellulose.

3. Preparations for oral use containing not more than 135 milligrams of dextropropoxyphene base per dosage unit or with a concentration of not more than 2.5 per cent in undivided preparations, provided that such preparations do not contain any substance contained in the Third Schedule to the [Medical and Kindred Professions Ordinance](#).

4. Preparations of cocaine containing not more than 0.1 per cent of cocaine calculated as cocaine base and preparations of opium or morphine containing not more than 0.2 per cent of morphine calculated as anhydrous morphine base and compounded with one or more other ingredients and in such a way that the drug

cannot be recovered by readily applicable means or in a yield which would constitute a risk to public health.

5. Preparations of difenoxin containing, per dosage unit, not more than 0.5mg of difenoxin and a quantity of atropine sulfate equivalent to at least 5 per cent of the dose of difenoxin.

6. Preparations of diphenoxylate containing per dosage unit, not more than 2.5 milligrammes of diphenoxylate calculated as base and a quantity of atropine sulphate equivalent to at least one per cent of the dose of diphenoxylate.

7. *Pulvis ipecacuanhae et opii compositus*

10 per cent opium in powder

10 per cent ipecacuanha root, in powder well mixed with

80 per cent of any other powdered ingredient containing no drug.

8. Preparations conforming to any of the formulae listed in this Part of the Schedule and mixtures of such preparations with any material which contains no drug.

SECOND SCHEDULE

FORM A

(Article 14(2))

DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE

(CHAPTER 101)

Import Certificate issued by the Serial No.....

Government of Malta File No

Amended by:
XVI.1960.3;
XXIII. 1980.10.
Substituted by:
VI.1994.20.

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF IMPORT

I, being the person charged with the administration of the law relating to dangerous drugs to which the [Single Convention 1961](#) applies, hereby certify that I have approved the importation by^{*}

of[†]

^{*}Insert name, address and business of importer.

[†]Insert exact description and amount of drugs to be imported.

from*

subject to the conditions that -

- (i) the consignment shall be imported before the
- (ii) the consignment shall be imported in one consignment; and
- (iii) if the importation of all the drugs specified above is not effected before the date specified in condition No. (i) this authorization shall be surrendered forthwith to the Chief Government Medical Officer

and that I am satisfied that the consignment proposed to be imported is required -

- (1) †for legitimate purposes (*in the case of raw opium or the coca leaf*).
- (2) §solely for medicinal or scientific purposes (*in the case of dangerous drugs other than raw opium and coca leaf*).

(Date).....

(Signature and stamp of the
Chief Government Medical Officer).

This document is solely for production to the government of the country from which the drug is proposed to be obtained.

*Substituted by:
VI. 1994.20.*

FORM B

(Article 13 (1))

DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE

(Chapter 101)

File No.....

Applicant's

Reference No

Serial No

EXPORT AUTHORIZATION

In pursuance of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Chapter 101),
the Chief Government Medical Officer hereby authorizes

(hereinafter called "the exporter")

to export from -

(1) ‡ the port of

by s. s.

*Insert name and address of firm in exporting country from which the drug is to be obtained.

†Strike out words not applicable.

‡ Strike out words not applicable.

(2) * Malta by Parcel Post in parcels from the to in virtue of import Certificate No. dated issued by the following drugs, namely:

This authorization is issued subject to the following conditions:

1. This authorization is not a licence to obtain or to be in possession of the drugs named herein.

2. This authorization is available only for drugs of the exact quantity, kind and form specified above.

3. This authorization does not relieve the exporter from compliance with any customs regulations in force for the time being relating to the exportation of goods from Malta nor from any provision of the [Post Office Act](#) (Chapter 254) or of any post office regulations for the time being in force, nor from any rules or regulations respecting the transmission of articles by post which may for the time being be in force, whether within Malta or elsewhere.

4. If the drugs are authorized to be exported by ship the duplicate copy, which is attached, shall accompany the consignment to the place of destination and for this purpose the exporter shall cause it to be delivered to the master of the vessel by which the consignment is despatched.

5. If the drugs are authorized to be exported by post the attached duplicate copy shall be placed inside the outer wrapper of the parcel containing the drugs. If the drugs are contained in more than one parcel, the duplicate copy shall be placed inside the outer wrapper of one of them; the parcels shall be consecutively numbered on the outer wrapper, and on each parcel there shall be legibly stated the number of the parcel in which the duplicate copy is to be found. [See footnote (2).]

6. The exporter, if so required by the Comptroller of Customs, shall produce to him, within such time as he may allow, proof to his satisfaction that the said drugs were duly delivered at the destination named in this authorization, and in the event of non-compliance with this condition the authorization shall be deemed void and of no effect.

7. The exporter shall furnish to the Chief Government Medical Officer such returns of the goods exported by him in pursuance of this authorization as may from time to time be required.

8. This authorization is valid only for the exporter named above and may be revoked at any time by the Chief Government Medical Officer. It shall be produced for inspection when required by any duly authorized person.

9. This authorization, unless sooner revoked, shall continue in force for three calendar months from the date hereof. It must be produced at the time of export, to an officer of -

(1) * the Customs Department,

(2) * the Post Office,

who will retain it. If not used it shall be surrendered to the Chief Government Medical Officer within seven days of the date of its expiry.

Date.....

.....
(Signature and stamp of the
Chief Government Medical Officer).

Note:

(1) If any alteration is desired in this authorization it must be returned with a request for amendment and a statement of the reasons therefor. No unauthorized alteration is permissible.

(2) In the case of drugs exported by post failure to comply with this condition may lead to delay or confiscation of the parcels in the country of destination.

FORM C

(Article 14 (1))

DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE

(CHAPTER 101)

Authorization No

File No

IMPORT AUTHORIZATION

In pursuance of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Chapter 101) (hereinafter called "the Ordinance"), the Chief Government Medical Officer hereby authorizes [†]

(hereinafter called "the importer") to import the drugs specified in the Schedule hereto, from[‡]

This authorization is issued subject to the following conditions:

1. The drugs shall be imported before (date)
2. This authorization is not a licence to be in possession of or to supply the drug imported.
3. This authorization does not relieve the importer from compliance with any Customs regulations in force for the time being relating to the importation of goods into or transshipment of goods in Malta, or any Post Office regulations for the time being in force in Malta.
4. This authorization is valid only for the importer and may

*Strike out words not applicable.

[†]Insert name and full postal address of importer.

[‡]Insert name and full postal address of exporter.

be revoked at any time by the Chief Government Medical Officer to whom it shall in that event be immediately surrendered. It shall be produced for inspection when required by any duly authorized person.

5. This authorization unless sooner revoked shall be produced to the Comptroller of Customs at the time of importation and shall be surrendered to the Comptroller of Customs at the time when the last consignment of drugs is imported.

6. If the importation of all the drugs specified in the Schedule is not effected before the date specified in condition No. 1 this authorization shall immediately after that date be surrendered to the Chief Government Medical Officer.

7. The copy of the export authorization, if any, which accompanies the drugs, shall be forwarded to the Chief Government Medical Officer immediately the importation of the drugs has been effected.

(Date)

.....
(Signature and stamp of the
Chief Government Medical Officer.)

SCHEDULE specifying the drugs and quantities thereof to be imported.

This authorization is not to leave the possession of the importer until it is surrendered to the Chief Government Medical Officer or to the Comptroller of Customs, who will complete the certificate on the back and return the authorization to the Chief Government Medical Officer.

ENDORSEMENT BY COMPTROLLER OF CUSTOMS at the time of Importation

Date	Description of drugs imported	Number and date of Export Authorization	Quantity	How imported	Customs entry or Parcel No.	Signature and stamp of Comptroller of Customs
				e.g., ex ... (In the case of a ship), or by registered parcel post or by insured box post.		

This authorization, when all the drugs to which it relates have been imported, must be returned by the Comptroller of Customs to the Chief Government Medical Officer.

FORM D

(Article 16 (1))

DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE

(CHAPTER 101)

LICENCE FOR THE REMOVAL OF DANGEROUS DRUGS IN
TRANSIT

.....is hereby authorized to move the
dangerous drugs described hereunder from

.....to

Nature and quantity of dangerous drugs

Particulars of export authorization (or
diversion certificate if any) relating thereto

.....
Name of ship on which the drugs

were brought into Malta

Date of arrival

Number of packages

Marks and numbers on packages

This licence is issued subject to the following conditions: -

(1) This licence is valid only for the removal of the drugs
specified above.

(2) The removal of the drugs shall take place between
a.m./p.m. and a.m./p.m. on the
20.....

(3) If the removal of the drugs does not take place within the
hours and on the day specified, this licence must be returned to the
Comptroller of Customs forthwith; and in any case shall be
surrendered when the removal has taken place.

(4) The drugs must not be moved unless an officer of the
Customs Department is present.

(5) This licence does not authorize the person named above to
be in possession of the drugs otherwise than for the purpose of
removing them in accordance with this licence.

(6) The packages containing the drugs are not to be opened or
broken in the course of the removal.

(7) This licence shall be produced at any time when required
by a duly authorized person.

(Date)

.....

(Signature and stamp of the
Comptroller of Customs.)

FORM E

*Substituted by:
VI. 1994.20.*

(Article 18(1))

DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE

(CHAPTER 101)

DIVERSION CERTIFICATE

I, hereby certify that I have authorized the diversion of the consignment of drugs, of which particulars are given below, to the destination stated below:-

Description and quantities of drugs

Name of vessel on which the consignment
was brought to Malta

Name and address of the exporter

Number and date of export authorization
and authority by whom issued

Name and address of original consignee
named in the export authorization

Name and address of consignee to whom the
consignment is authorized to be diverted

Number and date of import certificate
(and authority by whom issued) by virtue of
which this diversion is authorized

Name of vessel on which the consignment
is authorized to be carried from Malta

Period within which the consignment is
to be carried from Malta

This certificate is issued subject to the following conditions:

(1) The duplicate copy of this certificate shall accompany the consignment to the place of destination, and for this purpose shall be delivered to the master of the vessel by which the consignment is despatched.

(2) This certificate does not relieve any person who may be concerned with the carriage of the consignment of drugs specified

above from compliance with any customs regulations in force for the time being relating to the exportation of goods from Malta.

(3) This certificate is valid only for the consignment and for the period specified above, and may be revoked at any time.

(4) If the consignment of drugs is not carried from Malta within the period specified above, this certificate shall be surrendered to the Chief Government Medical Officer.

(5) This certificate shall be produced at any time when required by a duly authorized person.

(Date).....

.....
(Signature and stamp of the Chief
Government Medical Officer)

Note:

(1) If any alteration is desired in this authorization, it must be returned with a request for amendment and a statement of the reason therefor. No unauthorized alteration is permissible.

(2) This document is to be produced to the competent authorities of any country through which the consignment passes, whether it is transhipped or not. Failure to comply with the condition may lead to delay or confiscation of the consignment.

THIRD SCHEDULE
(Article 22(ID))

Added by:
VI. 1994.21.
Amended by:
L.N. 278 of 2003;
L.N. 1 of 2004.

TABLE I
CATEGORY I

Substance	CN designation (if different)	CN code	CAS No ⁽¹⁾
1-Phenyl-2-propanone	Phenylacetone	2914 31 00	103-79-7
N-acetylanthranilic acid	2-Acetamidobenzoic acid	2924 23 00	89-52-1
Isosafrol (cis + trans)		2932 91 00	120-58-1
3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl-propan-2-one	1-(1,3-Benzodioxol-5-yl)propan-2-one	2932 92 00	4676-39-5
Piperonal		2932 93 00	120-57-0
Safrole		2932 94 00	94-59-7
Ephedrine		2939 41 00	299-42-3
Pseudoephedrine		2939 42 00	90-82-4
Norephedrine		Ex 2939 49 00	14838-15-4
Ergometrine		2939 61 00	60-79-7
Ergotamine		2939 62 00	113-15-5
Lysergic acid		2939 63 00	82-58-6

The stereoisomeric forms of the substances listed in this Category not being cathine ⁽²⁾ whenever the existence of such forms is possible.

The salts of the substances listed in this Category whenever the existence of such salts is possible and not being the salts of cathine.

CATEGORY II

Substance	CN designation (if different)	CN code	CAS No ⁽¹⁾
Acetic anhydride		2915 24 00	108-24-7
Phenylacetic acid		2916 34 00	103-82-2
Anthranilic acid		2922 43 00	118-92-3
Piperidine		2933 32 00	110-89-4
Potassium permanganate		2841 61 00	7722-64-7

The salts of the substances listed in this Category whenever the existence of such salts is possible.

CATEGORY III

Substance	CN designation (if different)	CN code	CAS No ⁽¹⁾
Hydrochloric acid	Hydrogen chloride	2806 10 00	7647-01-0
Sulphuric acid		2807 00 10	7664-93-9
Toluene		2902 30 00	108-88-3

Ethyl ether	Diethyl ether	2909 11 00	60-29-7
Acetone		2914 11 00	67-64-1
Methylethylketone	Butanone	2914 12 00	78-93-3

The salts of the substances listed in this Category whenever the existence of such salts is possible and not being the salts of hydrochloric acid and sulphuric acid.

(¹) The CAS No. is the "Chemical Abstract Service Registry Number" which is a unique numeric identifier specific to each substance and its structure. The CAS No. is specific to each isomer and to each salt of each isomer. Hence the CAS Nos for the salts of the substances listed above are different to those given.

(²) Also named (1)-norpseudoephedrine, CN code 2939 43 00, CAS No 492-39-7.

TABLE II

ACETIC ANHYDRIDE

ACETONE

ANTHRANILIC ACID

ETHYL ETHER

PHENYLACETIC ACID

PIPERIDINE

METHYL ETHYL KETONE

TOLUENE

POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE

SULPHURIC ACID

HYDROCHLORIC ACID

The salts of the substances listed in this Table whenever the existence of such salts is possible.

FOURTH SCHEDULE

(Article 22)

Added by:
XXIV. 2014.90;
LXVI. 2021.25.
Amended by:
[*VII.2025.8.*](#)

Guidelines on the exercise of discretion

These guidelines apply to all accused persons aged 16 and over.

In determining the court in which a person accused of an offence against this Ordinance is to be tried the harm or the potential harm caused by the offence charged shall be the principal consideration.

The quantity of the drug is a principal consideration in assessing harm. The purity need not necessarily be taken into account at the initial stage but it may be considered in determining whether a person initially referred for trial before the Criminal Court is to be referred for trial before the Court of Magistrates at a later stage.

The role played by the accused in the crime shall, if sufficient information is available, also be taken into consideration.

In such cases a distinction should be made between persons who played a leading role, a significant role or a lesser role in the commission of the offence.

A leading role in the commission of the offence may be indicated by the following:

- that the accused organized or directed buying and selling of a drug on a commercial scale;
- that the accused had substantial links to and significant influence on other persons in a chain;
- that the accused had close links to the original source of the drugs;
- that the accused made substantial financial gain or had an expectation of substantial financial gain;
- that the accused used a legitimate business as a cover for buying or selling drugs;
- that the accused has abused a position of trust or of significant responsibility in the commission of the offence, for example when the accused is a prison employee or a legal or medical professional.

A significant role in the commission of the offence may be indicated by the following:

- that the accused had an operational or a management function within a chain;
- that the accused involved others in the operation either by exerting pressure or influence upon them or by intimidation or offer of reward;
- that the accused was motivated by the prospect of financial or other advantage, irrespective of whether the accused was acting alone or with others;
- that the accused appeared to be aware and to understand the scale of the operation;
- that the accused, not being a person abusing a position of trust or responsibility, supplied the drug to a prisoner for gain but without

coercion.

A lesser role in the commission of the offence may be indicated by the following:

- that the accused has performed a limited role in the commission of the offence and has acted under the direction of others;
- that the accused was engaged by others to commit the offence by pressure, coercion or intimidation;
- that the accused got involved in the commission of the offence because of his naivete or because he was exploited by others;
- that the accused had no influence on those above him in a chain;
- that the accused had very little, if any, understanding of the scale of the operation;
- that taking all circumstances into account it is reasonable to conclude that the accused was involved in the commission of the offence solely for the purpose of obtaining drugs for his own use;
- that the accused made no financial gain from the offence, for example in cases involving a common purchase of a minimal quantity for no profit or the sharing of a minimal quantity between friends on a non-commercial basis.

Aggravating factors resulting from the law shall be taken into consideration.

Other aggravating factors that may be taken into consideration may include:

- the sophisticated nature of concealment of the drug and the nature of any attempt to avoid detection;
- any attempts made to conceal or to dispose of evidence;
- the exposure of others to exceptional danger such as when a drug is cut with harmful substances;
- high purity of the drug
- that the accused has targeted places intended to locate vulnerable persons or has sought to supply drugs to minors;
- that others, especially children and non-users were present when the accused committed the offence.

The following amounts involved in the offence, when the said amounts are known, can be taken as indicative that a person should not be referred for trial before the Criminal Court:

- heroin and cocaine: less than 200 grams
- cannabis: less than a kilo

Assistance which the accused may have rendered to the Police or to the prosecution may also be taken into account.

Added by:
XII.2025.5.

FIFTH SCHEDULE
(Article 2)

Part I

Non-psychoactive phytocannabinoids

CBD, Cannabidiol
CBG, Cannabigerol
CBC, Cannabichromene
CBDV, Cannabidivarine

Part II

Psychoactive cannabinoids

THC, Tetrahydrocannabinol

Part III

Synthetic cannabinoids

HHC, hexahydrocannabinol
HHC-O acetate, HHCO, HHCOA, hexahydrocannabinol O-Acetate
HHC-P, hexahydrocannabiphorol
H4-CBD, tetrahydrocannabidiol, Hydrogenated CBD, THD,
cyclohexyl CBD
THC-P, tetrahydrocannabiphorol, Delta-9-THCP
HHCH, hexahydrocannabihexol, HHC-H
Delta-8-THCP, delta-8-Tetrahydrocannabiphorol, JWH 091, THC-
heptyl
THCB, Tetrahydrocannabutol, Delta-9-THCB, Delta-9-THC-C4,
Delta-9-THC-butyl
9-OH-HHC, 9-Hydroxyhexahydrocannabinol, 9-hydroxy-HHC
delta-8-THC acetate, Δ8-Tetrahydrocannabinol Acetate Δ8-THC-O-
Acetate
Delta-8-THC methylether, 1-methyl-Δ8-THC; Δ8-
Tetrahydrocannabinol methylether
Delta-9-THCP acetate, Δ9-Tetrahydrocannabiphorol Acetate; delta-
9-THC-C7-Acetate
delta-9-THCH, delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabihexol, delta-9-THC-C6
HHC-P-O-acetate, hexahydrocannabiphorol acetate

Delta-8-THCH, delta-8-tetrahydrocannabihexol delta-8-THC-C6
CC9 (9R-Hexahydrocannabinol-C9)
Delta-9-THC-JD, 3-octyl-6a,7,8,10a-tetrahydro-6,6,9-trimethyl-6H-
dibenzo[b,d]pyran-1-ol, delta-9-THC-C8
